DEKALB
OBITUARY
AUBURN
2007
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# OBITUARIES

# DEKALB COUNTY, INDIANA

**January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007**

These obituaries were extracted from
THE EVENING STAR, Auburn, Indiana

Patricia Watson Dyson

On Behalf of the
Dekalb County Genealogical Society
Auburn, Indiana

2007

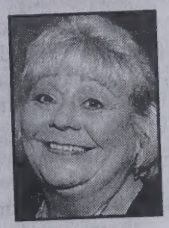
These obituaries are from The Evening Star, Auburn, Indiana
I cut and pasted these on pages and compiled a index. I have made every effort for accuracy and do apologize for any errors or omissions. I am glad to help preserve the history of DeKalb County, Indiana and for the DeKalb County Genealogical Society.

These obituaries are of DeKalb County connections and DeKalb County.

Patricia Watson Dyson

## Kathy Byrne

ORLAND — Kathy R. (Lash) Byrne, 51, of Orland died Thursday, Dec. 28, 2006, in Macon, Ga. as a result of injuries sustained in an automobile accident.


Mrs. Byrne

Mrs. Byrne was born April 9, 1955, in LaGrange County to Robert and Dorothy (Schultz) Anderson. She married William Byrne on Nov. 18, 2006, in Orland. He survives.

She worked at Cleveland Homes in Angola. She attended the Orland Nazarene Church and loved doing crafts and gardening.

Also surviving are her mother in Hudson; a daughter, Erica Schwarz of Angola; a brother, Gary Anderson of Hudson; two sisters, Judy Young of Pleasant Lake and Vicki Baltes of LaGrange; three grandchildren, Zachary, Ashley and Taylor; and four stepsons, Dave Byrne of Cleveland, Ohio, Steve Byrne of Angola, Jim Byrne of Muncie and Mike Steele of Pebble Beach, Fla.

She was preceded in death by her father and a sister, Sheri Anderson.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Stroh Church of Christ, Stroh, with the Revs. Mike Hamm and Roger Strong officiating. Calling will be Wednesday from 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. at Weicht Funeral Home, Angola.

Burial will be in Greenlawn Cemetery, Orland.

Memorials are to the Alzheimer's Association, Joyce Public Library, Orland, or St. Vincent's Children's Hospital.

## Patricia Sabrosky

HUDSON — Patricia Kay (Schwartz) Sabrosky, 54, of Hudson died Thursday, Dec. 28, 2006, at Hospice of Baton Rouge, La.

She worked at Tri-Wall in Butler for 13 years.

She was born Nov. 13, 1952, in Garrett to Mike and Betty (Ober) Schwartz. They survive in Hudson.

Her husband, Dana Sabrosky, died May 12, 2004.

Also surviving are two sons, Kevin Sexton of Auburn and Justin Sexton of Waterloo; a daughter, Shannon Sexton of Auburn; three brothers, Martin Schwartz of Salem, Ind., Robert Schwartz of Hamillton and David Schwartz of Ashley; two sisters, Bonnie Deetz of Wolcottville and Dawn Fry of Biloxi, Miss.; and five grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Brian Scott Schwartz, in October 1974.

Services will be Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. in Christian Union Cemetery of Garrett. The Rev. Ralph Diehl will officiate.

Calling will be Wednesday from 10-11 a.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo.

Memorials are to the hospice of the donor's choice.

## Violet Gulick

HAMILTON — Violet E. Gulick, 86, of Hamilton died Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2006, at home.

Mrs. Gulick was born April 4, 1920, in Allen County to Albert and Mabel (Guiff) Thimlar. She retired from General Electric, and then worked at Auburn Rubber Co.

She enjoyed gardening. She was a member of the Veteran of Foreign Wars Auxiliary, George Anspaugh Post No. 7205, and Angola American Legion Post No. 31 Auxiliary.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Eunice and Sonny Martin of Pleasant Lake; a granddaughter, Kimberly; and three great-grandchildren, Christopher, Trevor and Nicholas.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a son, Robert Tilghman; four brothers, Howard, Lester, Eugene and Merlin Thimlar; and three husbands, Jack Tilghman, Wibur Roth and William Gulick.

Graveside services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Eddy Cemetery, Hamilton. There will be no calling.

Arrangements are being handled by Weicht Funeral Home, Angola.

## Douglas Zimmerman

ANGOLA — Douglas Earl Zimmerman, 74, of Angola died Saturday, Dec. 30, 2006, at St. Joseph Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Zimmerman was born June 8, 1932, in Garrett to Earl and Suzie (Hatfield) Zimmerman. He was married to Beverly J. Bowen on July 20, 1979, and she survives.

He was a journeyman electrician at Eaton Corp. (Dana) for 23 years, retiring in 1997. He was a U.S. Air Force veteran of the Korean War.

He was a member of Hillcrest Baptist Church in Angola and Angola American Legion Post No. 31. He was a past president of the Mosquito Association 5th Air Force, and was very involved in the planning of the Korean War Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Also surviving are two sons, Mark Zimmerman of Ashville, N.C. and Michael Zimmerman of Auburn; three stepsons, Jeffrey Miles, Richard Miles and Jason Miles, all of Angola; two daughters, Mary Maple of St. Joe and Melanie Saxton of Houston, Texas; a stepdaughter, Kim Burrage of Auburn; a sister, Sally Johansenn of Weaverville, Calif.; 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Ned "Allen" Zimmerman.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Hillcrest Baptist Church, with the Rev. Terry Sturges officiating. Calling will be Friday from 10 to 11 a.m. at the church.

Burial will be in Oak Hill Cemetery, Crawfordsville.

Memorials are to Hillcrest Baptist Church or the Steuben County Cancer Association.

Arrangements are being handled by Weicht Funeral Home, Angola.

## Sue Henney

KENDALLVILLE — Dessie M. "Sue" (Kizer) Henney, 97, of Kendallville died Monday, Jan. 1, 2007, at 9:04 p.m. at Shepherd of the Hill nursing home in Kendallville where she had resided for several years.

Mrs. Henney

Mrs. Henney served in the offices of McCray Refrigeration and Litton Industries, both in Kendallville.

She was a member of Trinity Church United Methodist and sang in the church choir for many years.

Mrs. Henney was recently recognized for her 75 years of membership in the Noble Chapter Order of the Eastern Star.

She was a 1927 graduate of Kendallville High School.

Mrs. Henney was born Oct. 22, 1909, to Lake and Maude (Wilson) Kizer in Edgerton, Ohio. She married Gordon T. Henney on Nov. 21, 1943. He died May 24, 2002.

Surviving are two daughters and a son-in-law, Susan and Lawrence Raffo of Burlingame, Calif., and Marsha Henney of Las Vegas, Nev.; a sister, Bettie Smith of Kendallville; a brother-in-law, Howard Seidel of Kendallville; a sister-in-law, Elaine Kizer of Auburn; six grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by two brothers, Ariel Kizer and Thomas Kizer; and a sister, Scottie Seidel.

Memorial services will be held in March at Shepherd of the Hill nursing home for both Sue and Gordon Henney. Interment will be in Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville.

Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, is in charge of arrangements.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** *is being reprinted to include additional information.*

## Danny Wood

SKINNER LAKE — Danny D. Wood, 62, of Skinner Lake died Thursday, Dec. 28, 2006, at his home.

Mr. Wood

Mr. Wood was born Sept. 19, 1944, in Fort Wayne to Walter and Geneva (Crary) Wood. He was a truck driver for 30 years, and had also driven for the City of Auburn. He had lived in Noble County for two years.

He married Linda Lee Cole on April 7, 2006, and she survives.

He was a member of the American Association of Retired Persons. He enjoyed NASCAR and motorcycle racing.

Also surviving are two daughters and a son-in-law, Debora and Timothy Frick and Cindy Wood, all of Auburn; a son and daughter-in-law, Walter "TJ" and Melinda Wood of Angola; a stepdaughter, Joleine Cole of Albion; two stepsons, James Cole and Jonathan Cole, both of Columbia City; two brothers and a sister-in-law, Walter Wood Jr. and Terry and Sandy Wood, all of Garrett; three sisters and brothers-in-law, Joan and Mart Fahlsing of Fort Wayne, Judith King and Willis Hicks of Albion and Diana and Jerry Haugk of Garrett; eight grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and an infant son, Sean.

Services were today at Brazzell Funeral Home, Albion Chapel.

Burial was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Albion.

Memorials are to the family.

## Hubert Miller

AUBURN — Hubert B. "Hugger" Miller, 86, of Auburn died Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Miller

Mr. Miller worked for American Rockwell Co. for 11 years and for Group Dekko for 11 years. He was the owner and operator of QC-Onics in Angola.

He was a U.S. military veteran, serving as a captain in the Marine Air Corps, and was a pilot and flew during World War II.

He graduated from Tri-State University with a bachelor of science degree in chemical engineering.

He was a member of American Legion Post 423 of Orland and was a past member of the Loyal Order of the Moose Lodge 566 of Auburn. He was a member of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve and volunteered at the World War II Victory Museum in Auburn.

He was born July 29, 1920, in Norfolk, Va., to Hubert and Alice Amanda (Ashley) Miller.

He married Bess E. Hathaway on Nov. 20, 1976, in Elkhart. She survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Gregg A. and Linda Wattier of Auburn; four daughters and three sons-in-law, Diana K. and Robert Houk of Aliquippa, Pa., Deborah K. and Michael Geeting of Auburn, Terri L. Grogg of Auburn and Roberta P. and Eric Kuhlhorst of Auburn; 10 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, Robert M. Miller, and his first wife, Laura Jane Miller, who died in 1974.

Services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. in Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with Mr. Miller's grandson, Pastor Thad Ford of Harvest Bible Baptist Church in Uniontown, Ohio, officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery of Garrett.

Calling will be Friday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Garrett United Methodist Church, Harvest Bible Baptist Church, or a charity of the donor's choice.

## Margaret Reeves

FORT WAYNE — Margaret H. Reeves, 72, of Fort Wayne, died Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2007, at Bethlehem Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

Mrs. Reeves

Mrs. Reeves was a member of the Maplewood Mennonite Church.

She was born Feb. 8, 1934, in Waynesboro, Tenn.

Surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Linda and Bill Miller of Sturgis, Mich., and Gloria and Allen Gunnerson of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; a son and daughter-in-law, Tom E. and Joellen Reeves of Auburn; a brother and sister-in-law, J.P. and Florence Morgan of Hicksville, Ohio; eight grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, T.J. Reeves, a daughter, Cathy Boyle, two sisters, Lois Morgan and Martha Louise Staggs, and two brothers, Roy and Lonnie Morgan.

Services will be Friday at 10:30 a.m. in Maplewood Mennonite Church, 4129 Maplecrest Road, Fort Wayne. Burial will be in Yaggy Cemetery at Grabill.

Calling will be Thursday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the Hockemeyer Funeral Home, Harlan, and Friday from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to the church.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, is handling arrangements.

## Mary Jane Kunce

AUBURN — Mary Jane Kunce, 76, of Auburn died Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2007, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Kunce

Mrs. Kunce was a homemaker.

She was born Dec. 29, 1930, in Huntington to Paul and Mary (Norwood) Bruss. They preceded her in death.

She married Rex Kunce on May 23, 1948, in Huntington, and he survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Tom R. and Donna Kunce of Cincinnati, Ohio; a sister, Marjory Tyner of Bluffton; two brothers, Raymond Bruss of Wabash and Robert Bruss of Brazil, South America; and seven grandchildren, Adam Kunce, Josh Kunce, Nathan Kunce, Zach Michlow, Mardah Michlow, Gabe Michlow and Phillip Michlow.

She was preceded in death by a daughter, Anna Laura Kunce, a son, David Kunce, and a brother, Richard Bruss.

Services will be Saturday at 1 p.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with Daniel Pfister officiating. Burial will be in Mount Hope Cemetery at Huntington.

Calling will be Friday from 4-6 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to a charity of the donor's choice.

## Bertha Shoudel

AUBURN — Bertha R. Shoudel, 82, of Auburn, died Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

She worked as a key punch operator for Messenger Corp. for 34 years. She was a member of Hopewell United Brethren Church in rural Auburn.

She was born Feb. 28, 1924, in DeKalb County to Michael J. and Alice (Carnahan) Shoudel. They preceded her in death.

Surviving are a brother, Roy M. Shoudel of Leo; two sisters, Ruby M. Yoder of Huntertown and Gladys Wilcoxson of Auburn; and 15 nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Ora M. Shoudel, two sisters, Lela I. Schwartz and Neva Boyce, a niece and a nephew.

Services will be Friday at 2 p.m. in Hopewell United Brethren Church, with the Rev. John Erwin officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Friday from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the church.

Memorials are to Hopewell United Brethren Church.

## Eloise DeKoninck

AUBURN — Eloise G. DeKoninck, 72, of Auburn died Thursday, Jan. 4, 2007, at her home.

Mr. DeKoninck worked at Eagle-Picher in Ashley for 23 years, retiring in 1994. She was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn and the Rosary Society. She volunteered at St. Martin's House and Harvest House.

Mrs. DeKoninck

She was born Feb. 11, 1934, in Yoder to Clarence and Selena (Schmidt) Harber. They preceded her in death.

She married Dale J. DeKoninck on June 8, 1957, in Yoder. He died Sept. 9, 2000.

Surviving are three sons and daughters-in-law, Michael A. and Vickie DeKoninck of Avilla, David L. and Pam DeKoninck of Auburn and Mark A. and Deanna DeKoninck of Avilla; four daughters and sons-in-law, Diane K. and Chris Miles of Columbia City, Sandra S. and Terry Wilcox of Auburn, Joan M. and Russell Stockert of Garrett and Sharon A. and Rodney DeLong of Pierceton; four sisters and two brothers-in-law, Ruth Harber of Anderson, Audrey and Ralph Dietche of Fort Wayne, her twin, Eleanor, and George Hartman of Fort Wayne and Theresa Harber of Fort Wayne; 17 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Services will be Monday at 11 a.m. in Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 500 E. Seventh St., Auburn. Father Babasino Fernandez will officiate. Burial will be in Cedar Creek Cemetery near Garrett.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-6 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, and Monday from 10-11 a.m. at the church. The rosary will be recited Sunday at 5 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to St. Joseph Catholic School in Garrett, to Masses or to the church.

## Ruth Ardhuerumly

CHURUBUSCO — Ruth Annalee Ardhuerumly, 73, formerly of Churubusco died Thursday, Jan. 4, 2007, at Lutheran Hospital following a brief illness.

She had retired from Dexter Axel Co. Feb. 13, 1998.

Mrs. Ardhuerumly was a longtime member of Calvary Chapel in Auburn where she was involved with the women of the church and Bible study.

She was born Feb. 3, 1933, in Albion to Alvia and Eva (Diffendarfer) Hawk.

Surviving are three sons and daughters-in-law, Steven and Rita Ardhuerumly and Michael and Beth Ardhuerumly, all of Churubusco, and Jeffery and Robbie Ardhuerumly of Allen, Texas; a brother, Otis Hawk of Albion; three sisters and two brothers-in-law, Jean Meyer of Churubusco, Eloiese and David McCain of Bakersfield, Calif., and Helen and Fred Baily of Houston, Texas; a sister-in-law, Mildred Hawk; eight grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Sheets & Childs Funeral Home in Churubusco with Pastor Dennis Kutzner officiating. Burial will be in Christian Chapel Cemetery at Merriam.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

## LaVern Freeman

KENDALLVILLE — LaVern Guy Freeman, 77, of Kendallville died at 9:14 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2007, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Freeman had been employed in the maintenance department at East Noble High School for five years, at Avilla Elementary School for five years, at G.E. for 13 years and at one time had been in the maintenance department at Sacred Heart Nursing Home in Avilla.

He was born Sept. 18, 1929, in Auburn to Guy J. and Dora (Porter) Freeman. He married Roslyn M. "Rose" Lower on April 25, 1975, in Rome City. She died Dec. 23, 2003.

Surviving are two daughters, Debbie Gibson of Garrett and Pat Harden of Texas; five sons and four daughters-in-law, Dennis and Darlene Freeman of Anderson, Randy and Brenda Freeman of Auburn, John and Beth Freeman of Garrett, Charles Freeman of Angola and Howard and Diane Freeman of Kendallville; two stepdaughters, Sherry Khyatta of Fort Wayne and Tony Rash of Ohio; a stepson, Ivan Rash of Fort Wayne; a sister, Erma Castleman of Garrett; a brother and sister-in-law, Stanley and Judy Freeman of Auburn; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

There are no services.

Memorials are to Waterloo Freewill Baptist Church, C.R. 27, Waterloo, IN 46793.

Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, is in charge of arrangements.

## Harold Mendenhall

ANGOLA — Harold E. "Gene" or "Mendy" Mendenhall, 84, of Angola died Sunday, Dec. 31, 2006, at Wesley Health Care in Auburn.

Mr. Mendenhall

Mr. Mendenhall was born Oct. 31, 1922, in Bluffton to Ivy F. and Martha Mae (Aker) Mendenhall. He married Betty Jane (Jorn) Bir on Oct. 3, 1964, and she preceded him in death on June 2, 2002.

He had been a dispatcher at Walbro County in West Palm Beach, Fla. and a security officer for Wells Fargo Services in Palm Beach. He was also a restaurant and bar owner in Kremling, Colo. and had been a bartender at The Beachcomber at Bledsoe's Beach at Lake James.

He was a farmer and heavy equipment operator for Mike Klink and owned a sawmill in Hamilton and a ceramics shop in Angola.

He served in the U.S. Navy from 1942-46 and saw combat in the Pacific Theater. He was a member of the Eagles, Moose and Elks lodges, and the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars posts in Angola and West Palm Beach.

Surviving are four sons, Randy E. and Douglas L. Mendenhall, both of Angola, Michael J. Bir of Fort Wayne and Roger W. Bir of Langley Air Force Base, Va.; two daughters, Terrie S. Gray of Ossian and Carla J. Holloway of Angola; 12 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

He was also preceded in death by a daughter, Diane K. Bir, in 1996; and a brother, Roger E. Mendenhall, in 1993.

Memorial services will be Jan. 13 from 1 to 3 p.m. at Angola American Legion Post No. 31, with members of the VFW participating. Immediately following there will be a gathering at Wacky Jac's, 1108 W. Maumee St., Angola from 3 to 5 p.m. (adults only).

Memorials are to Southern Care Hospice, 4666 W. Jefferson, Suite 170, Fort Wayne, IN 46804, or the Angola American Legion or VFW posts.

Arrangements are being handled by the Northeast Indiana Cremation Society, Fort Wayne.

## Casey Baughman

PLEASANT LAKE — Casey Baughman, 44, of Pleasant Lake, died Thursday, Jan. 4, 2007, at Cameron Hospital in Angola.

Mr. Baughman

He was a maintenance and custodial employee of DeKalb High School for 28 years, until he was forced to leave by ill health.

Mr. Baughman loved to hunt, fish, farm and work on cars. He was teaching his son about cars and they loved to cut wood together. He spent time talking to his daughter and helping her plan her nursing career. He loved and was very proud of his children.

He was born April 23, 1962, in Auburn to Robert and Garnett (Howe) Baughman. His mother survives in Auburn.

On Aug. 25, 1990, he married Connie Walker. She survives in Pleasant Lake.

Also surviving are his son, William, and daughter, Nichole, both at home; two brothers and a sister-in-law, Dennis and Janet Baughman of Leo and Willy Baughman of Waterloo; four sisters and three brothers-in-law, Dianna Sharp of Auburn, Nancy and Mike Wells of Auburn, Janie and Gary Brown of Topeka and Cheryl and Craig Fasnaugh of Huntertown; two stepbrothers, Bruce Baughman of Churubusco and Lance Baughman of Auburn; two stepsisters and a stepbrother-in-law, Julie Dearduff of Florida and Chris and Sherman Crager of Butler; 25 nieces and nephews; and 29 great-nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death were his father and his stepfather, LeRoy Baughman.

Services will be Sunday at 1 p.m. in Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Saturday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

## Donald Conrad

WATERLOO — Donald L. Conrad, 64, of Waterloo, died Thursday, Jan. 4, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Conrad

Mr. Conrad retired from Auburn Foundry Inc., where he worked as an electrician. He was a 1960 graduate of New Haven High School and a 1966 graduate of Purdue University.

He loved bird watching, fishing and being outdoors.

He was born Feb. 14, 1942, in Fort Wayne to Ralph and Lorene (Bacon) Conrad. They survive in Fort Wayne.

He married Martha C. Schiffli on Sept. 10, 1966, at St. Michael's Catholic Church in rural Waterloo. She survives in Waterloo.

Also surviving are four daughters and two sons-in-law, Lisa Conrad of Fort Wayne, Tina and Dan Bobilya of Fort Wayne, Cheryl Conrad of Denver, Colo., and Amy and Charles Begnaud of New Iberia, La.; a brother and sister-in-law, Alan and Char Conrad of Columbia City; two sisters and brothers-in-law, Barbara and Albert Alexander of Harrisburg, Ky., and Kathy and Claude Brewton of Goshen; and six grandchildren, Cassandra, Alyssa, Makayla, Lincoln, Donovan and Mallory.

Services will be Monday at 2 p.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with Father David Carkenord officiating. Burial will be in St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery, Waterloo.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-6 p.m. and Monday from 1-2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Cancer Society.

## Merwood Till

WATERLOO — Merwood Till, 78, died Thursday, Jan. 4, 2007, at the Laurels of DeKalb nursing home in Butler.

Mr. Till worked at Dreibelbiss Abstract Co. in Fort Wayne.

He was born March 12, 1928, in Waterloo to Haskell and Thelma (Bowman) Till. They preceded him in death.

He also was preceded in death by two sisters, Janice Hathaway and Madonna Till.

Graveside services are pending. There will be no calling.

Feller Funeral Home of Waterloo is handling arrangements.

## James Tombow

EUSTIS, Fla. — James Allen Tombow, 77, of Eustis, Fla., died Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2007, at his home.

Mr. Tombow was born Sept. 18, 1929, in Chicago. He was raised in Butler and had lived in Eustis since 1962.

Surviving are his wife, Rebecca Jean, of Eustis; three daughters and sons-in-law, Sherrie Lynn and Stan Paskiet of Eustis, Shelley Diane and David West of Eustis and Karen Ann and Phil Whisenant of Ocoee, Fla; a son and daughter-in-law, Kenton James and Joan Tombow of Mount Dora, Fla.; and five grandchildren.

A memorial service will be Tuesday at 3 p.m. in St. Philip Lutheran Church, Mount Dora.

Memorials are to hospice.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** *is being republished to correct a typographical error. We apologize for the error.*

## Eloise DeKoninck

AUBURN — Eloise G., DeKoninck, 72, of Auburn died Thursday, Jan. 4, 2007, at her home.

**Mrs. DeKoninck**

Mrs. DeKoninck worked at Eagle-Picher in Ashley for 23 years, retiring in 1994. She was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn and the Rosary Society. She volunteered at St. Martin's House and Harvest House.

She was born Feb. 11, 1934, in Yoder to Clarence and Selena (Schmidt) Harber. They preceded her in death.

She married Dale J. DeKoninck on June 8, 1957, in Yoder. He died Sept. 9, 2000.

Surviving are three sons and daughters-in-law, Michael A. and Vickie DeKoninck of Avilla, David L. and Pam DeKoninck of Auburn and Mark A. and Deanna DeKoninck of Avilla; four daughters and sons-in-law, Diane K. and Chris Miles of Columbia City, Sandra S. and Terry Wilcox of Auburn, Joan M. and Russell Stockert of Garrett and Sharon A. and Rodney DeLong of Pierceton; four sisters and two brothers-in-law, Ruth Harber of Anderson, Audrey and Ralph Dietche of Fort Wayne, her twin, Eleanor, and George Hartman of Fort Wayne and Theresa Harber of Fort Wayne; 17 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Services will be Monday at 11 a.m. in Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 500 E. Seventh St., Auburn. Father Babasino Fernandez will officiate. Burial will be in Cedar Creek Cemetery near Garrett.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-6 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, and Monday from 10-11 a.m. at the church. The rosary will be recited Sunday at 5 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to St. Joseph Catholic School in Garrett, to Masses or to the church.

## Merwood Till

WATERLOO — Merwood Till, 78, of Waterloo died Thursday, Jan. 4, 2007, at Laurels of DeKalb.

He worked at Dreibelbiss Abstract Co. in Fort Wayne.

He was born March 12, 1928, in Waterloo to Haskell and Thelma (Bowman) Till.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two sisters, Janice Hathaway and Madonna Till.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Tuesday at Feller Funeral Home in Waterloo.

There is no calling.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** *is being republished with revised information about a surviving relative.*

## LaVern Freeman

KENDALLVILLE — LaVern Guy Freeman, 77, of Kendallville died at 9:14 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2007, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Freeman had been employed in the maintenance department at East Noble High School for five years, at Avilla Elementary School for five years, at G.E. for 13 years and at one time had been in the maintenance department at Sacred Heart Nursing Home in Avilla.

He was born Sept. 18, 1929, in Auburn to Guy J. and Dora (Porter) Freeman. He married Roslyn M. "Rose" Lower on April 25, 1975, in Rome City. She died Dec. 23, 2003.

Surviving are two daughters, Debbie Gibson of Garrett and Pat Harden of Texas; five sons and four daughters-in-law, Dennis and Darlene Freeman of Anderson, Randy and Brenda Freeman of Auburn, John and Beth Freeman of Garrett, Charles Freeman of Angola and Howard and Diane Freeman of Kendallville; two stepdaughters, Sherry Khyatta of Fort Wayne and Tony Rash of Ohio; a stepson, Ivan Rash of Fort Wayne; a sister, Erma Casselman of Garrett; a brother and sister-in-law, Stanley and Judy Freeman of Auburn; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

There are no services.

Memorials are to Waterloo Freewill Baptist Church, C.R. 27, Waterloo, IN 46793.

Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, is in charge of arrangements.

The EVENING STAR
January 2007 Auburn, Indiana
7

# Gnagy loved nautical adventures

BY JAMIE LEMKE-BARRAND
jamiel@kpcnews.net

HAMILTON LAKE — Since he was a child Jeff Gnagy was a fixture on Hamilton Lake.

"I lived in Hamilton my all my life except for a couple of years, and Jeff always did," said Jeff's father, Jim Gnagy.

Jeff, a well-known man in Hamilton who was the vice president of Hamilton Lake Marine Inc. for a quarter century, succumbed at home on Dec. 4 to a rare blood vessel disorder he had struggled with for some time. He was 45.

Jim married his wife Pam in 2001 in his parents' yard in Hamilton. The two had known each other for a long time — Pam is a hairdresser, and Jeff had been her client for 18 years.

"It's not often that you date a client, much less marry one," she said.

But when Pam was diagnosed with breast cancer seven years ago, Jeff was beside her, encouraging her and supporting her.

"He was my best friend," she said.

Jim said he was happy that Jeff had found Pam.

"She's a great girl," he said. "I love her to death."

Jim said his son had a deep and abiding love for the water and boats. Although Hamilton Lake was home to Jeff, he would also go other places for nautical adventures, including Cape Coral, Fla. where his father and stepmother Jan own a condominium.

"He had a big time down here," Jim said.

Pam said her husband was never happier than when he was driving a boat.

"He loved all boats, but particularly fast boats," she said.

Jeff also used to be an integral part of the Hamilton Lake Ski team, for which he skied and drove.

"The lake ... that was his life," Pam said.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Jeff Gnagy dances with family friend Jane Brown a few years ago in the living room of the house Jeff shared with his wife, Pam. Jeff died Dec. 4 after battling a rare blood vessel disorder for several years.**

Jeff attended Hamilton Community Schools, graduating from Hamilton High School in 1979. His family owned the marina, and working there, Jim said, was the only job his son ever had.

"He loved it," Jim said.

Jeff was the second of three children in his family. His brother Brad and sister Kim both worked at the marina when they were younger, but Jeff was the only one to stay on after he reached adulthood.

"Our desks were 10 feet apart for 25 years," Jim said.

One of the things Jeff loved the most about working at the marina was watching generations of families become customers.

"If you have someone who brings their kids in when they're little, those kids are probably going to become customers ... you can just about count on it," Jim said. "We've watched that happen for years. And every time Jeff did business with somebody, they turned out to be a genuine friend."

Pam described her husband as "kind, loving and fun."

"He just ... he never knew a stranger," she said. "He always made everyone feel like they were the only customer he had."

Jim said Jeff had been afflicted with the disorder that ultimately took his life "for a number of years." As Jeff's condition worsened, he had to have frequent blood transfusions.

"When his hemoglobin levels would get low, he'd be short of breath and get very weak," Jim said.

Jim and Pam were both awed by how many people came to pay their respects after Jeff died.

"We were overwhelmed," Jim said. "The people at the funeral home said they figured about 500 people came through during the visitation time. We were supposed to be there from 3 to 7, and the last of the line came through at 8:30. Some of the people who were there stood in line for an hour and 45 minutes."

Pam was surprised at the outpouring, too.

"I didn't think the line would ever end," she said.

Jim and Jan will soon start to prepare for boat show season without Jeff for the first time — something Jim knows will be very difficult.

"Our season starts with the boat show," he said. "It's going to be sad this year."

Pam said if people remember one thing about Jeff, she would like it to be that he had a very giving nature.

"One of the greatest things about him," she said, "was his generosity."

## Angela McCandlish

AUBURN — Angela Rae McCandlish, 45, died Friday, Jan. 5, 2007, in her home.

She is survived by her daughter Brooke and her husband Garry; a sister; two brothers; her husband's parents, Bill and Vada Albright, and his two brothers and sister.

She was preceded in death by a daughter, Amber.

All services are private and memorials are of the donor's choice.

Feller-Clark Funeral Home of Auburn is in charge of funeral arrangements.

## William Schrock

KENDALLVILLE — William O. "Bill" Schrock, 69, of Kendallville died at 8:59 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 6, 2007, in the emergency room at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn. Mr. Schrock had suffered from Shy Dragger Syndrome for the past three years.

Mr. Schrock

He had been a resident at Wesley Health Care in Auburn the past six months and prior to that had lived in Kendallville since 2003. He had lived 10 years at Big Long Lake and 22 years in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Schrock retired in 1989 from International Harvester.

He was a member of South Milford United Methodist Church.

Mr. Schrock was born Aug. 10, 1937, in LaGrange County to Reuben and Susan (Yoder) Schrock. He married Joan L. Troyer on April 18, 1959, in LaOtto. She survives in Kendallville.

Also surviving are three sons and a daughter-in-law, Craig and Rhonda Schrock of Arlington, Texas, Todd Schrock of New York, N.Y., and Chad Schrock of Lake Mary, Fla.; a sister, Ruth Gappinger of Elkhart; three brothers, Clayton Schrock of Cedarville, and Elmer Schrock and Paul Schrock, both of Fort Wayne; and two grandchildren, Bailey Schrock and Adam Schrock.

He was preceded in death by his parents; five brothers, Levi, Albert, Robert, Donald and David Schrock; and two sisters, Frances Beck and Betty Miller.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, with the Rev. Barbara Cross and the Rev. Carldean Merrifield officiating. Burial will be in Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Wednesday and one hour prior to services Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to South Milford United Methodist Church or the Parkinson's Association.

Condolences may be sent to youngfamilyfh@sbcglobal.net.

## L. Maxine Collins

AUBURN — L. Maxine Ridenour Collins, 83, of Auburn died Monday, Jan. 8, 2007, at Wesley Healthcare in Auburn.

Mrs. Collins

Mrs. Collins was a homemaker and a member of the Auburn Conservation Club, St. Joe Conservation Club and Defiance County Conservation Club. She loved fishing and trap shooting.

She was born Feb. 16, 1923 in Titusville, Fla.

She married Orville D. Collins, who is preceded her in death.

Surviving are five sons and four daughters-in-law, Larry A. and Renee Collins of Waterloo, Jerry and Susan Collins of Orland, Paul and Judy Collins of Auburn, Robert L. and Bonnie Collins of St. Joe and Mike Collins of Auburn; five daughters and four sons-in-law, Lori A. and Scott Logsdon of Butler, Judy K. Collins of Butler, Sherry and Ray Shields of Auburn, Linda and Michael Adkins of Butler and Connie and Charlie Bungard of Butler; four sisters; seven brothers; 22 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; and three great-great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a daughter, Janice Collins, and a son, Orville D. Collins Jr.

Services will be Thursday at 10:30 a.m. at McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. Burial will be in Mount Pleasant Cemetery in rural Butler.

Calling will be Wednesday from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Wesley Healthcare Activities Department.

## Justice Vaughn

PLEASANT LAKE — Justice Marie Vaughn was stillborn to Anthony and Anita Dawn (Kerns) Vaughn of Pleasant Lake on Saturday, Jan. 6, 2007.

Justice was born at DeKalb Memorial Hospital, Auburn.

Surviving with her parents are a half-sister, Madison Vaughn of Angola; grandparents, Melody Kerns and Michael Kerns, both of Pleasant Lake, and Vicki Vaughn and Rodney Cooper, both of Manchester, Ohio; and great-grandparents Bonnie Brewer of Ashley and Linda and John Adams of Fremont, Mich.

She was preceded in death by her great-grandparents, Herman and Marilyn Vaughn.

Services were Monday at Beams Funeral Home, Fremont, with the Rev. Ronald Moore officiating.

Burial was in Pleasant Lake Cemetery.

Condolences can be sent online to www.beamsfuneralhome.com.

## Robert Phillips

HUDSON — Robert "Roby" Phillips, 52, of Hudson died Sunday, Jan. 7, 2007, due to a closed-head injury suffered in an automobile accident 25 years ago.

Mr. Phillips

Mr. Phillips was born June 29, 1954, in Detroit to Ronald and Ida (Guzman) Phillips. He loved music and played the congas, saxophone and drums. He was also a singer.

He was owner and trainer of several race horses and started several businesses. One remains in operation, Phillips Brick Cleaning, in Hudson.

Surviving are his mother in Hudson; four brothers and two sisters-in-law, Kenneth and Colleen Phillips of Reading, Mich., Mark Phillips of Hudson, Ronnie and Jessica Phillips of Flint and Brian Phillips of Toledo, Ohio; three sisters and two brothers-in-law, Kelly Keough of New Mexico, Sue and Jim Leakey of Auburn, and Tracy and Scott Gantt of Hudson; and several nieces and nephews.

His father preceded him in death in 1993.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday at Johnson Funeral Home, Hudson, with the Rev. Dave Carkenord officiating. Calling will be Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Burial will be in Circle Cemetery, Hudson.

Memorials are to Brain Injury Association of America, 8201 Greensboro Drive, Suite 611, McLean, Va. 22102.

Condolences may e-mailed to johnson@bnin.net.

## Edna Skelly

WATERLOO — Edna L. (Rakestraw) Skelly, 92, died Monday, Jan. 8, 2007, at her home in rural Waterloo.

Mrs. Skelly

Mrs. Skelly was a homemaker. She was a member of the Cedar Lake Church of Christ in rural Waterloo, the Cedar Lake Missions Circle, Franklin Township Homemakers Club and Lake James Christian Women's Assembly.

She was born April 19, 1914, in DeKalb County to William and Ida (Yarnell) Myers. They preceded her in death.

She married Dale M. Rakestraw on Dec. 22, 1934. He died Dec. 4, 1983.

She then married Earl Skelly on June 25, 1992. He survives in Waterloo.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Kenneth and Mary Rakestraw of Waterloo; three daughters and two sons-in-law, Linda and Steve Birkenbeul of Coldwater, Mich., Rita and Fred Rice of Indianapolis and Carol Rakestraw of Auburn; three stepsons and their wives, Eldon and Marlene Skelly of Hamilton, John and Lois Skelly of Fort Wayne and Donald and Kathy Skelly of Ashley; three stepdaughters, Carolyn Sue (Skelly) Reinoehl and her husband, Everett, of Waterloo, Ellen (Skelly) Wilson of Waterloo and Dianna (Skelly) Owen of Rushville; a stepdaughter-in-law, Deborah Stilwell of Fort Wayne; eight grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; 18 stepgrandchildren; 32 stepgreat-grandchildren; and seven stepgreat-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by five brothers, Chester, Russell, Alfred, Floyd and Donald Myers, one sister, Florence Staley, one stepson, Larry Skelly, two stepsons-in-law, Steven Wilson and Steven Owen, two stepgrandchildren and one stepgreat-grandchild.

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. at the Cedar Lake Church of Christ in rural Waterloo. Steve Evans will officiate. Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery.

Calling will be Thursday from 2-8 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, and Friday from 10-11 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to the Cedar Lake Church of Christ or DeKalb Memorial Hospice.

## Paul Gillespie

PARSONS, Kan. — Paul D. Gillespie, 76, of Parsons, Kan., died at 1:15 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 23, 2006, at the Elmhaven West Nursing Home in Parsons.

Mr. Gillespie was born May 16, 1930, in Auburn to Eber A. and Velaria G. (Blevins) Gillespie. He grew up in Auburn and served in the U.S. Navy for 22 years, from 1947 to 1969, serving in both the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

After retiring from the Navy, he worked for the U. S. Postal Service for 20 years in Phoenix, Ariz. He moved to Parsons in 1991.

He married Cassie L. "Bonnie" Dobbins on May 29, 1968, at Neodesha, Kan. She survives.

Also surviving are three stepsons, Mitchell L. Hollingsworth and Max T. "Terry" Hollingsworth, both of Parsons, and Marvin L. Keeling of Pittsburg, Kan.; 13 stepgrandchildren; 17 stepgreat-grandchildren; three brothers, John Gillespie of Garrett, Clarence Gillespie of Twain Harte, Calif., and Richard "Bud" Gillespie of Dandridge, Tenn.; and four sisters, Phyllis Deal of Phoenix, Ariz., June Bauer of St. Petersburg, Fla., Marilyn Evans of Van Buren, Ark., and Sandy Winebrenner of Pine, Ariz.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, George Gillespie; and a sister, Pauline Stevens.

Services were conducted Dec. 27 at Carson-Wall Funeral Home in Parsons, Kan. Burial was in the Fort Scott National Cemetery with military honors.

## Floyd Keller Jr.

AUBURN — Floyd Keller Jr., 85, died Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2007, at his daughter's home in LaOtto.

Mr. Keller

Mr. Keller was an Auburn resident until 1994, when he moved to Sebring, Fla.

Mr. Keller worked for Warner Gear in Auburn for 18 years, retiring in 1972. He also was a Wilmington Township farmer. He was a charter member of the Butler Eagles.

He was born Nov. 11, 1921, in Grant Township of DeKalb County to Floyd and Mildred (Rohm) Keller. They preceded him in death.

He married Martha I. Lower on Oct. 4, 1941, in Auburn. She died Sept. 30, 1997.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Sandra K. and James LaRowe of LaOtto; a daughter-in-law, Lois Garman of Markle; two brothers, Eldon LeRoy Keller of Butler and Leonard "Skeet" Keller of Auburn; three sisters, Violet Provines of Butler, Carol Ann Cummings of Auburn and Sharon Sue Surface of Butler; six grandchildren, Curt Keller, Kim Mishler, Amy Evers, Daniel LaRowe, Mitch Keller and Jennifer Gray; 11 great-grandchildren; and a companion, Phyllis Freds.

He was preceded in death by a son, Cleo E. "Butch" Keller in 1977, and a brother, Harold Keller.

Services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. Burial will be in the Waterloo Cemetery.

## Violet Hollinger

WATERLOO — Violet M. Hollinger, 96, of Waterloo died Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mrs. Hollinger was a homemaker. She formerly was a member of the Hamilton Grange for 25 years.

She was born March 27, 1910, in Noble County, to Charles and Catherine (Putt) Wheeler. They preceded her in death.

She married Jay E. Hollinger on Jan. 24, 1927, in Albion. He died Sept. 10, 1996.

Surviving are a daughter, Carol Lung of Butler; five grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a daughter, Jean Faulkner; two brothers, Paul Wheeler and Riley Wheeler; a sister, Karri Holcomb; and two grandsons, Brian Lung and Kevin Faulkner.

Graveside services will be Friday at 2 p.m. in Lake View Cemetery, Kendallville, with the Rev. Richard Pickard officiating.

Memorials are to the Corunna Community Church.

Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, is handling arrangements.

Calling will be Friday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home, 5910 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne.

## Sara Jane Traycoff

AUBURN — Sara Jane Copsey Traycoff, 77, formerly of Indianapolis, died Friday, Jan. 5, 2007, in Auburn.

Mrs. Traycoff received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Indiana University. She was a teacher for 38 years, having been named teacher of the year in 1989. Her career began at IPS No. 72, and she later became chairperson of the English Department at Perry East Junior High and an English teacher at Southport High School. She was a member of Holy Spirit Catholic Church at Geist.

Surviving are a son, Jeff Hoffmeister; stepsons, Sergei and Gregor Traycoff; three grandchildren, three stepgrandchildren and two great-grandchildren; and a sister, Elisabeth Kissling.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Phillip S. Traycoff.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Cremation Society of Indiana. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association or the American Heart Association.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** *is being reprinted with additional information about a surviving relative.*

## Edna Rakestraw Skelly

WATERLOO — Edna L. (Rakestraw) Skelly, 92, died Monday, Jan. 8, 2007, at her home in rural Waterloo.

**Mrs. Skelly**

Mrs. Skelly was a homemaker. She was a member of the Cedar Lake Church of Christ in rural Waterloo, the Cedar Lake Missions Circle, Franklin Township Homemakers Club and Lake James Christian Women's Assembly.

She was born April 19, 1914, in DeKalb County to William and Ida (Yarnell) Myers. They preceded her in death.

She married Dale M. Rakestraw on Dec. 22, 1934. He died Dec. 4, 1983.

She then married Earl Skelly on June 25, 1992. He survives in Waterloo.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Kenneth and Mary Rakestraw of Waterloo; three daughters and two sons-in-law, Linda and Steve Birkenbeul of Coldwater, Mich., Rita and Fred Rice of Indianapolis and Carol Rakestraw and her companion, Al Franze, of Auburn; three stepsons and their wives, Eldon and Marlene Skelly of Hamilton, John and Lois Skelly of Fort Wayne and Donald and Kathy Skelly of Ashley; three stepdaughters, Carolyn Sue (Skelly) Reinoehl and her husband, Everett, of Waterloo, Ellen (Skelly) Wilson of Waterloo and Dianna (Skelly) Owen of Rushville; a stepdaughter-in-law, Deborah Stilwell of Fort Wayne; eight grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, two great-great-grandchildren, 18 stepgrandchildren, 32 stepgreat-grandchildren and seven stepgreat-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by five brothers, Chester, Russell, Alfred, Floyd and Donald Myers, one sister, Florence Staley, one stepson, Larry Skelly, two stepsons-in-law, Steven Wilson and Steven Owen, two stepgrandchildren and one stepgreat-grandchild.

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. at the Cedar Lake Church of Christ in rural Waterloo. Steve Evans will officiate. Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery.

Calling will be today from 2-8 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, and Friday from 10-11 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to the Cedar Lake Church of Christ or DeKalb Memorial Hospice.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** *is being reprinted with revisions to the information originally submitted to the newspaper.*

## Floyd Keller Jr.

AUBURN — Floyd Keller Jr., 85, died Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2007, at his daughter's home in LaOtto.

Mr. Keller was an Auburn resident until 1994, when he moved to Sebring, Fla.

Mr. Keller

Mr. Keller worked for Warner Gear in Auburn for 18 years, retiring in 1972. He also was a Wilmington Township farmer. He was a charter member of the Butler Eagles.

He was born Nov. 11, 1921, in Grant Township of DeKalb County to Floyd and Mildred (Rohm) Keller. They preceded him in death.

He married Martha I. Lower on Oct. 4, 1941, in Auburn. She died Sept. 30, 1997.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Sandra K. and James LaRowe of LaOtto; a daughter-in-law, Lois Garman of Markle; two brothers, Eldon LeRoy Keller of Butler and Leonard "Skeet" Keller of Michigan; three sisters, Violet Provines of Butler, Carol Ann Cummings of Auburn and Sharon Sue Surface of Auburn; six grandchildren, Curt LaRowe, Kim Mishler, Amy Ewers, Daniel LaRowe, Mitch Keller and Jennifer Gray; 11 great-grandchildren; and a companion, Phyllis Freds.

He was preceded in death by a son, Cleo E. "Butch" Keller in 1977, and a brother, Harold Keller.

Services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. Burial will be in the Waterloo Cemetery.

Calling will be today from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home, 5910 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne.

## Dorothy Borne

FORT WAYNE — Dorothy E. Borne, 82, of Fort Wayne died Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2007, at the Laurels of DeKalb Nursing Home in Auburn.

A memorial service will be Sunday at 2 p.m. in the Arcola United Methodist Church.

Memorials are to the church.

Burial will be at a later date in Covington Memorial Gardens. Covington Memorial Funeral Home of Fort Wayne is handling arrangements.

To sign a guest book, visit www.covingtonmemorial.com.

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## Judith Eisenhut

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Judith Ellen Eisenhut, 63, died Friday, Jan. 5, 2007, in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Born in Fort Wayne, she was a history and social studies teacher at DeKalb High School for 20 years, retiring in 2001.

She was a member of Salem United Church of Christ, Retired Teachers Association and National Teachers Association. She received her bachelor's degree from Indiana University in 1965 and a master's degree from St. Francis in 1970. She enjoyed traveling the world and visiting her nieces and nephews.

Surviving are her sister, Suzanne Rahe of Winfield, Ill.; an aunt, Evelyn Eisenhut of Scottsdale, Ariz.; two nephews, Edward and Brian Rahe; a niece, Kathleen Dillinger; three great-nieces, Victoria Dillinger and Caitlyn and Kelly Rahe; and a great-nephew, James Dillinger

A memorial service will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday in D.O McComb & Sons Lakeside Park Funeral Home, 1140 Lake Ave., Fort Wayne, The Rev. Norm Conklin will officiate. Burial will be in Lindenwood Cemetery.

Calling will be Tuesday from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. and Wednesday from noon-1 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Salem United Christ of Christ.

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# A humble, soft-spoken person

## Friends say Bertha Shoudel always was thinking of others

BY BILL GISEL
billg@kpcnews.net

AUBURN — In most every church of every denomination, there can be found a worshiper who faithfully sits in the same pew and in the same spot, Sunday after Sunday.

At the Hopewell United Brethren Church, Bertha Shoudel was that person.

Miss Shoudel, 82, was recalled by her pastor, the Rev. John Erwin, as "a very humble, soft-spoken person. She was a woman of prayer."

Miss Shoudel died Jan. 3 at DeKalb Memorial Hospital. She never married, and is survived only by a brother, two sisters, 15 nieces and nephews and a host of friends.

Erwin said Miss Shoudel was always thinking of others.

"One of the things she did a lot was to send cards, with pastings of pictures or words about the message she wanted to get across. She was very creative," Erwin said.

Patsy Harris, a niece of Miss Shoudel, said she received a 25th anniversary card from her aunt that contained pages of information, including a copy of the wedding invitation and a clipping about the marriage from a newspaper.

Harris called her aunt "very appreciative and very grateful" and not at all worldly. "She was a simple person, with simple needs," she said. She loved poetry, and especially author Helen Steiner Rice.

Miss Shoudel was an employee of the Messenger Corp. for 34 years, and was very excited when her employer used a poem Miss Shoudel wrote on one of its calendar products.

"She was thrilled when that happened," recalled Jackie Carnahan of Auburn, a friend of more than 50 years and a shirt-tail relative.

Carnahan met Miss Shoudel at a Sunday school party, when she dated her future husband, Ralph Carnahan.

"Bertha was there, and she just became a part of our lives," Jackie Carnahan said.

According to Carnahan, Miss Shoudel "was the epitome of humility" who cared very much about others.

"Being a care-giver was a part of who she was," Carnahan said. Miss Shoudel first cared for her mother when she was made an invalid by arthritis. When her nephews, Gail and Wayne Wilcoxson, were children, she cared for them, too, she said.

Gail Wilcoxson said his aunt loved gardening, especially mowing the lawn.

"I would get it (the mower) started for her, and she would mow for hours, or until she got tired," he said. She also tended a birdfeeder, bringing it in every night and putting it back out in the morning, something that her father had also done.

Gardening no doubt paid a part in the writing of her 1977 published poem, "The Garden Lesson" (see box at right).

Miss Shoudel's pastor said a sticky note was found among Miss Shoudel's possessions, and was obviously meaningful to her.

"It said, 'The music of your life will be sweeter if you are not always tooting your own horn,'" he said.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Bertha Shoudel, left, is pictured with her brother, Roy Shoudel, and sisters Ruby Yoder, second from left; Gladys Wilcoxson, second from right; and Lela Schwartz, right. Bertha, 82, the youngest of the Shoudel children, died Jan. 3 at DeKalb Memorial Hospital.**

### The Garden Lesson

We made a garden, God and I,
Beneath a lovely summer sky.
With strength he gave I tilled the soil,
and cleared the weeds in weary toil.

Could there be life, I thought within
Those seeds so brown, so small and thin?
I placed them gently 'neath the sod,
Then waited patiently for God.

He sent warm sunshine, gentle rain,
And made those dry seeks live again.
Up through the earth came peeking through,
Peas, carrots, beets, and flowers, too.

Then from our garden plot I prayed
Lord, may my trust on Thee be stayed,
That when I'm placed beneath the sod,
My faith and hope will be in God.

That in the resurrection fair,
In a brand new body I'll be there,
Changed in the twinkling of an eye,
Forever with Christ to reign on high!

## Dorothy Green

WOLCOTTVILLE — Dorothy E. Green, 77, a former resident of Blackman Lake, died at 11:20 a.m. Friday, Jan. 12, 2007, at the Dallas Lamb Foundation Home in Payne, Ohio, where she had been a resident since September 2005.

Mrs. Green

She was born Jan. 14, 1929, in Paulding, Ohio, to Elia F. and Rachel (Bix) Sontchi.

She graduated from Paulding High School and was employed at Weatherhead in Antwerp, Ohio, from 1958-69.

On June 28, 1969, she married William E. Green. They made their home in Wolcottville until 1994, when they moved to Blackman Lake. Mr. Green died Sept. 11, 2002.

Surviving are three daughters and two sons-in-law, Sandy and Jim Bowers of Antwerp, Pamela Stevens of Topeka and Paula and Mike Martz of Wolcottville; one son and daughter-in-law, David Michael and Pat Maberson of Fort Wayne; one stepson and his wife, Ronald and Julie Green of Corunna; two stepdaughters and their husbands, Diane and John Anderson of Van Wert, Ohio, and Donna and Steve Lippi of Cavette, Ohio; 19 grandchildren and 33 great-grandchildren; and a brother, Homer Sontchi of Defiance, Ohio.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, George Sontchi and Ed Sontchi, and two sisters, Florence Gelbuda and Marie Lehman.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Monday at Smith and Sons Funeral Home, 207 N. Main St., Columbia City with Pastor Mike Schneider officiating.

Burial will be in Greenhill Cemetery.

Calling will be from 2-6 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Dallas Lamb Activities Fund or Paulding County Hospice.

## Norraine Kosturik

AUBURN — Norraine Emmaline "Emmy" Kosturik, 81, of Auburn, died Friday, Jan. 12, 2007, at the Laurels of DeKalb nursing home in Butler.

Mrs. Kosturik

Mrs. Kosturik worked at McNeal's Black Angus and also the Village Inn, both in Grand Haven, Mich. She was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn, where she was active in the Legion of Mary and Harvest House.

She was born in Baraga, Mich., on Sept. 30, 1925, to Mose and Exilia (Sylvester) Bellaire.

She married John P. Hurns on April 23, 1951. He died Jan. 22, 1968. She married Louis J. Kosturik Aug. 30, 1969, in Grand Haven, Mich. He died Feb. 21, 1999.

Surviving are one daughter and son-in-law, Patricia Hurns Koeppe and Kurt Koeppe of Auburn; five grandchildren, Collette Johnson, Terri Gilbert, Angela Secrist, Chelsea Merkle and Abbe Harpp; nine great-grandchildren; three sisters, Jeanine Pelto of Baraga, Mich., Marie Tahtinen of Troy, Mich., and June Allm of Tulsa, Okla.; and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, six brothers and two sisters.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 500 E. Seventh St., Auburn.

Burial will be in Auburn Catholic Cemetery.

Calling will be Monday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn, and Tuesday from 1-2 p.m. at the church. The rosary will be recited at 4 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County chapter of the American Cancer Society or a charity of the donor's choice.

## Irene Guinther

KENDALLVILLE — Irene M. Guinther, 95, of Kendallville died Saturday, Jan. 13, 2007, at Miller's Merry Manor Nursing Home in Garrett.

Mrs. Guinther was honored as Indiana's outstanding teacher in 1971. She taught at Pleasantville High School for eight years, at Hobart Junior High School for four years and at J.E. Ober Elementary School in Garrett for 15 years, retiring in 1972.

She was a member of Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses in Auburn and was interested in Bible study.

She was born Aug. 13, 1911, in Sullivan.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Russell W. Guinther, a son, Paul Wendel Guinther, a daugher, Martha Ann Guinther, five brothers and one sister.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Bill and Dana Guinther of Goshen; a daughter and son-in-law, Nancy and Lauren Treesh of DeKalb County; a brother, Hal Meurer of Long Branch, N.J.; five grandchildren, Mariah A. Hobson-Walker of Rome City, Kimberly Hope Hobson-Gage of Fort Wayne, Richard Russell Hobson of Indiana, Lauren Treesh of Ashley and Lauren James Treesh of Waterloo; and 15 great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be Saturday at 1:30 p.m. in Kingdom Hall, 1020 Ensley Ave., Auburn. Richard Meurer will officiate.

There will be no calling.

Memorials are to Auburn Kingdom Hall or Shelter Ministries of Auburn.

McComb, Dilgard and Cline Funeral Home of Auburn is handling arrangements.

## Rev. Frederick Libby

FORT WAYNE — The Rev. Dr. Frederick J. Libby, 78, died Sunday, Jan. 14, 2007, at VA Northern Indiana Health Care System in Fort Wayne.

He was born in Everett, Mass., and was a member of St. Michael Lutheran Church. He served in the Army during World War II in Tokyo, Japan. He was a graduate of Boston University with a degree in education.

He was a professor at Payne College in Augusta, Ga., then was a graduate of the lay ministry program at Concordia University in Milwaukee, Wis., and served as a lay minister at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Palatine, Ill.

He was a graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne with a Master of Theology degree. He pastored at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Hudson.

He received his doctorate in behavioral sciences from Kennedy Western University. He was a clinical associate with the Family Counseling Center in Auburn and was an instructor of psychology at Indiana University-Purdue University, Fort Wayne.

Surviving are his wife, Sandra A. Libby; a daughter and son-in-law, Dawn H. and Seth Leis of Fort Wayne; and two grandchildren, Kennan and Piper Leis.

Services will be Wednesday at 6 p.m. at St. Michael Lutheran Church, 2131 Getz Road, with Pastor Robert A. Bruckner officiating. Burial will be in Covington Memorial Gardens.

Calling will be Wednesday from 4-6 p.m. at the church.

Memorials are to St. Michael Lutheran Church.

D.O. McComb & Sons Pine Valley Park Funeral Home, 1320 E. Dupont Road, Fort Wayne, is in charge of arrangements.

## Annabel Growcock

WAWAKA — Annabel May (Fike) Growcock, 84, of Wawaka died Thursday, Jan. 11, 2007, at Harbor View Hospital in Seattle, Wash., while visiting her son.

Mrs. Growcock

Mrs. Growcock had retired from Essex Wire in Topeka.

She was a member of Wawaka United Methodist Church.

She was born Dec. 14, 1922, in DeKalb County to Howard and Ruth (Christlieb) Fike. She first married Elmer Strater and he died in 1971. She then married Sidney VanDousen and he died in 1981. Her third husband, William D. Growcock, died in 2004.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Paul and Jeanne Strater of Yakima, Wash.; a brother, Wayne Fike of Fort Wayne; four grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by a daughter, Patricia Miller in 2001; two sisters, Dorothy Latta and Beulah Critten; and a brother, Glen Fike.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, with the Rev. Jimmy Robbins officiating. Burial will be in Orange Cemetery near Rome City.

Calling will be from 3-6 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Wawaka United Methodist Church.

Condolences are to youngfamilyfh@sbcglobal.net.

## Gertrude Severson

GARRETT — Gertrude E. Severson, 94, of Garrett died Sunday, Jan. 14, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mrs. Severson had been a nurse's aide at the Garrett Hospital. She was a member of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Ladies Aid, LWML and Bible class.

She was born April 19, 1912, to Otto and Alma (Radtke) Imm in Town of Main, Wis. Her parents preceded her in death.

She married Walter Hoppe in 1936, and he died in 1941. She married Charles "Red" J. Severson on July 2, 1947, in Wausau, Wis., and he preceded her in death on May 9, 1982.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Kenneth and Karen Severson of Sturgis, Mich., and Daryl and Susan Severson of LaOtto; two grandchildren, Brian Severson and his wife, Jane, of Statesville, N.C., and Sherry Severson of Wolcottville; two brothers and a sister-in-law, Otto and Lenore Imm of Wausau and Charles Imm of Sturgis; a brother-in-law, Art Verick of Wausau; three sisters and a brother-in-law, Diana Hettinga, Beatrice Delf and Janet and James Burns, all of Wausau; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, Lawrence and Marvin Imm, and four sisters, Lorena Champnell, Agnes Page, Vangie Verick and Eva Grueling.

Services will be Wednesday at 10 a.m. in Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Garrett, with Pastor Jeffrey Horn officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery of Garrett.

Calling will be today from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, and Wednesday from 9-10 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of Garrett.

Condolences are to condolencethomas@skyenet.net.

The EVENING STAR
January 17 2007 Auburn, Indiana

# Fire claims Wolf Lake man

BY MATT GETTS
mattg@kpcnews.net

WOLF LAKE — An elderly man died in a house fire this morning in southwestern Noble County.

According to police, 73-year-old Ralph Wiedman may have been overcome by smoke after he re-entered his rural Wolf Lake home to retrieve keys to a pair of antique vehicles on the property.

Wiedman's body was recovered in a room next to an entryroom in the house, police said.

"He was slumped in a corner," Noble County Sheriff's Department Sgt. Terry Waikel said. "It appears he was overcome by smoke."

The two-story farmhouse was a total loss, according to Waikel.

According to a dispatcher at the Noble County Sheriff's Department, Noble Township firefighters were dispatched to a fully involved house fire at 3 a.m. today at 0799 S. C.R. 375W near Wolf Lake.

Noble Township Fire Chief Rob Davis arrived first, followed quickly by Waikel and Deputy Carey Coney. While Davis raced to shut off the gas to the home, Waikel and Coney attempted to gain entry through the front door, but were turned back by heavy smoke.

Waikel said he called repeatedly for Wiedman, but got no response.

"The wife stated the husband had gone back in to get keys for his antique cars," Waikel said. "He never made it back."

According to Waikel, a 1930s to '40s-era Dodge was outside along with a mid-70s Ford Mustang.

Wiedman's wife told authorities she had been roused by a barking dog and heard a smoke detector going off. She woke her husband, and they left the residence, calling emergency responders.

## Rev. Theron Hanes

WARSAW — The Rev. Theron H. "Red" Hanes, 85, of Warsaw died Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2007, at 2:05 a.m. in Kosciusko Community Hospital at Warsaw.

He was an ordained minister of the Church of the Nazarene, retiring in 1989. He previously lived in Bristol, North Manchester, Warsaw, Butler and Nappanee. He belonged to the Warsaw Church of the Nazarene.

He was a World War II veteran, serving in the European Theater with the U.S. Army Air Corps as an ordnance loader with the 8th Bombardment Group.

He was born Nov. 1, 1921, in Waterloo to Harry Altenburg and Susan Wilmeta (Copland) Hanes.

He married Joy L. Ernest on April 5, 1942, in Goshen. She survives.

Also surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Karen and Larry Coble of Warsaw and Wanda and Carl Schneider of Riverside, Calif.; two sons and daughters-in-law, Bill and Brenda Hanes of Warsaw and Tom and Kathy Hanes of Kankakee, Ill.; 10 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

Five sisters preceded him in death.

Services will be Friday at 10 a.m. in the Warsaw Church of the Nazarene, 1654 S. Fisher Ave., Warsaw. Pastors Chris Rego and Keith Cole will officiate. Burial will be in Oaklawn Cemetery at North Manchester.

Calling will be Thursday from 4-8 p.m. at McHatton-Sadler Funeral Chapel, 2290 Provident Court, Warsaw, and Friday from 9-10 a.m. at the church.

To sign a guestbook or send condolences electronically, visit mchattonsadlerfuneralchapels.com.

## Evelyn Watson

CROMWELL — Evelyn F. Watson, 85, of Cromwell died at 2:10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2007, at Avalon Village Nursing Home in Ligonier where she had been a resident since May 2006.

Mrs. Watson had worked at Borden Co. and General Electric in Fort Wayne and Monsanto in Ligonier.

She had moved to Cromwell from Fort Wayne in August 1956.

Mrs. Watson enjoyed country music, gardening and tending to her flowers.

She was born Nov. 16, 1921, in Warsaw to Willard and Mary (Henderson) Swonger. She married Harry Watson on Nov. 12, 1955, in Arcola. He survives in Cromwell.

Also surviving are three sons and daughters-in-law, Larry and Lee Bair of Warsaw and Terry and Sherry Bair and Kenneth and Cyndi Watson, all of Ligonier; a daughter, Sharon Garner of Lisbon; two stepdaughters, Bonnie Affolder and her husband, Floyd, of Fort Wayne and Linda Jewett of Arcola; 17 grandchildren; 36 great-grandchildren; and seven great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by four brothers; a sister; a grandson; two great-granddaughters; and her stepmother, Stella Stump Emmons.

Memorial services will be at 3 p.m. Sunday at J.A. Brazzell-Renner Funeral Home in Ligonier with Jesse Jacobs officiating. Burial will be in Sparta Cemetery at a later date.

Calling will be from 1-3 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Parkview Noble Hospice.

## Walter Perry

AUBURN — Walter W. Perry, 80, of Auburn died Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2007, at his home.

Mr. Perry worked for Auburn Gear for 32 years, retiring in 1992. He also was a police officer for the railroad for 10 years in Willard, Ohio.

He served in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II from January 1945 to November 1946.

He attended the Garrett United Methodist Church. He was a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles in Garrett, American Legion Post 246 in Albion and the Hamilton Fish and Game Club.

He was born Sept. 16, 1926, in Wolcottville, to A. Vance and Lorena (Donat) Perry.

He married Sandra McFeters on July 3, 1969, in Auburn, and she survives.

Also surviving are two daughters, Gloria Jean Young of Garrett and Deborah Perry of Avilla; three grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren; and a brother.

He was preceded in death by his parents and three brothers.

There will be no services or calling.

Memorials are to Heartland Home Health Care and Hospice, Fort Wayne.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, is handling arrangements.

The EVENING STAR
January 19 2007 Auburn, Indiana

# Fall kills roofing worker

## Fort Wayne man loses his footing at Garrett building

GARRETT — A construction worker died from his injuries after falling from the roof of a Garrett building Thursday morning, Garrett Police said.

Brandon J. Bragg, 26, of Fort Wayne lost his footing and slid off the roof onto a concrete sidewalk below at 9:25 a.m. A DeKalb EMS ambulance took him to DeKalb Memorial Hospital, where he was pronounced dead at 10:37 a.m., according to Garrett Police Department Detective Sterling K. Robbins II.

Bragg and two co-workers from County Line Roofing were reroofing the Garrett Christmas Bureau building, a former church at 200 S. Cowen St., across the street from the post office.

Witnesses at the scene said Bragg was not using a safety harness while working on the steeply pitched roof.

The Garrett Fire Department assisted police officers and EMS medics at the accident scene, which is a former Baptist church. The Christmas Bureau acquired it in October from the Garrett Chamber of Commerce, which bought it in 2004.

SUE CARPENTER

Brandon J. Bragg, 26, of Fort Wayne, died Thursday after falling from this roof at the Garrett Christmas Bureau, a former church near downtown. He was working with a roofing crew.

*The following obituary is being republished with new information about calling.*

## Walter Perry

AUBURN — Walter W. Perry, 80, of Auburn, died Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2007, at his home.

Mr. Perry worked for Auburn Gear for 32 years, retiring in 1992. He also was a police officer for the railroad for 10 years in Willard, Ohio.

He served in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II from January 1945 to November 1946.

He attended the Garrett United Methodist Church. He was a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles in Garrett, American Legion Post 246 in Albion and the Hamilton Fish and Game Club.

He was born Sept. 16, 1926, in Wolcottville, to A. Vance and Lorena (Donat) Perry.

He married Sandra McFeters on July 3, 1969, in Auburn, and she survives.

Also surviving are two daughters, Gloria Jean Young of Garrett and Deborah Perry of Avilla; three grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and a brother.

He was preceded in death by his parents and three brothers.

The family will receive friends Saturday from noon to 4 p.m. at the Auburn Moose Lodge.

Memorials are to Heartland Home Health Care and Hospice, Fort Wayne.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, is handling arrangements.

*The following obituary is being rerun to correct a reporter's errors.*

## Ryliegh Brumbaugh

LAOTTO — Ryliegh Grace Lynn Brumbaugh, 23 months old, of LaOtto died unexpectedly Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2007, at Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis.

**Ryleigh Brumbaugh**

She was born Feb. 14, 2005, in Fort Wayne to David Loren Brumbaugh and Trina Lynn (Gross) Brumbaugh. They survive in LaOtto.

Also surviving are two brothers, Ross Brumbaugh and Remingtin Brumbaugh, both of LaOtto; her grandparents, Linda Gross of Auburn and Loren "Jake" and Janet Brumbaugh of Albion; and great-grandmothers Bernadean Miller of Garrett, Beth Brumbaugh of Albion and Marjorie Roe of Ligonier.

She was preceded in death by a grandfather, Ross J. Gross.

Services will be Sunday at 2 p.m. at Sugar Grove Church of God, Churubusco, with Pastor Tim Grable officiating. Burial will be in Huntertown Cemetery.

Calling will be Saturday from 2-5 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, and Sunday from 1-2 p.m. at the church Sunday.

Memorials are to the family or Riley Hospital for Children.

Condolences may be sent to condolencethomas@skyenet.net.

## Wayne Thomas

FRESNO, Calif. — Wayne D. Thomas, 88, of Fresno, Calif., died Monday, Jan. 15, 2007, at his home.

Mr. Thomas served his country during World War II as a U.S. Marine on the island of Iwo Jima.

Surviving are his wife, Aranka, in Fresno; a stepdaughter, Linda Bruce of Merced, Calif.; three daughters and two sons-in-law: Patty Sue and Ralph Aalders of Auburn, Nancy Deardorf of Auburn and Jerilyn and Robert Farver of Ashley; a son, James Thomas of Columbus, Ohio; 14 grandchildren; two stepgrandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; one great-great grandchild; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Betty Hart and Janet and Bob Maxwell, all of Auburn; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father, Alvie Thomas; his mother, Pauline (Quince) Thomas; and two brothers, Ronald and Richard Thomas.

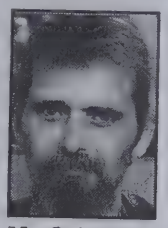
Services will be Saturday at 2 p.m. in Whitehurst Sullivan Burns & Blair Funeral Home, Fresno. Interment will be at San Joaquin Valley National Cemetary in Gustine, Calif.

A local memorial service will be at the Auburn Church of Christ, Eighteenth and Jackson streets, at 7 p.m. Wednesday, with calling after 6:30 p.m.

## Stewart Caldwell III

WOLCOTTVILLE — Stewart Franklin Caldwell III, 45, of Wolcottville died at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2007, at his home.

Mr. Caldwell had been employed as a carpet layer for Carney Decorating Center in LaGrange.


**Mr. Caldwell**

He enjoyed spending his summers with his family at Messick Lake.

He was born Jan. 3, 1962, in LaGrange to Stewart Franklin II and Sharon (McClish) Caldwell. His father and stepmother, Stewart II and Linda Caldwell, survive in Wolcottville. His mother, Sharon McClish, survives in Tennessee.

He married Sandy Collett on Sept. 29, 1990, in Fort Wayne. She survives in Fort Wayne.

Also surviving are a daughter, Joann Dombrowski of Auburn; three sons, Stewart Caldwell IIII of Fort Wayne, Mathhew Dombrowski of Auburn and Taylor Caldwell of Wolcottville; and a stepsister, Jamie Miller of Syracuse.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Carney-Frost Funeral Home in LaGrange with the Rev. Brad Garrett of Woodruff United Methodist Church officiating.

Calling will be from 4-8 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Condolences may be sent online to Carneyfrost@earthlink.net.

## David Miller

GARRETT — David R. Miller, 64, of Garrett, died Thursday, Jan. 18, 2007, at Regency Place in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Miller owned Owens Glass Shop in Garrett for 30 years. He was a member of the Garrett Presbyterian Church, the Garrett Masonic Lodge, the Auburn-Garrett York Rite and the Order of the Eastern Star. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War, serving in the Air Force.

He was born Sept. 22, 1942, in Goshen to Karl and Betty (Riley) Miller.

He married Martha Wood on Nov. 11, 1982, and she preceded him in death.

Surviving are a son, Karl Miller of Utah; two daughters, Bonnie Miller of Waterloo and Laura Miller of Arizona; a stepdaughter, Samme Johnson of Maryland; two brothers, Sam Miller and Dan Miller, both of Auburn; and a sister, Diane White of Coldwater.

He was preceded in death by a stepdaughter, Martha Wood.

A Masonic memorial service will be Monday at 11 a.m. in Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, followed by a funeral service conducted by the Rev. Howard Compton.

Calling will be Monday from 10-11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Rise Inc. or the Garrett Presbyterian Church.

Condolences are to condolencethomas@skyenet.net.

## Daisy Snyder

ANGOLA — Daisy A. Snyder, 73, of Angola, died Thursday, Jan. 18, 2007, at Northern Lakes Nursing & Rehab Center.

Mrs. Snyder was a homemaker and a former member of the Women of the Moose Auxiliary in Angola.

She was born April 27, 1933, in Metz to William G. and Mildred R. (Huffman) Delong. They preceded her in death.

She married Dale E. Snyder on Jan. 13, 1950, in Auburn. He died June 10, 1994.

Surviving are four sons, Donald E. Snyder of Murray, Ky., and Robert F. Snyder, Dale A. Snyder and Larry D. Snyder, all of Angola; four daughters, Peggy A. Clark-Mendez and Sherry L. Deetz, both of Martinsville, Penny S. Currall of Angola and Carletta R. Sturgeon of Coldwater, Mich.; 41 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a son, Stanley "James" Snyder, three brothers, Gerald Delong, Harold Delong, Henry Delong, and a sister, Florence Brower.

Services will be Tuesday at 1 p.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with Father Paul "Skip" Carsten officiating. Burial will be in Powers Cemetery at Metz.

Calling will be Monday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to a charity of the donor's choice.

# Life was an adventure for Harold Mendenhall

BY JAMIE LEMKE-BARRAND
jamiel@kpcnews.net

ANGOLA — Harold Mendenhall did a lot of things in his 84 years.

"He was always changing jobs," said his daughter, Carla Holloway. "He always had to keep busy with his hands. There was always something to do, something to build, something to invent. He had a lot of different jobs."

Harold, called "Gene" or "Mendy" by his friends and family, died on Dec. 31, 2006.

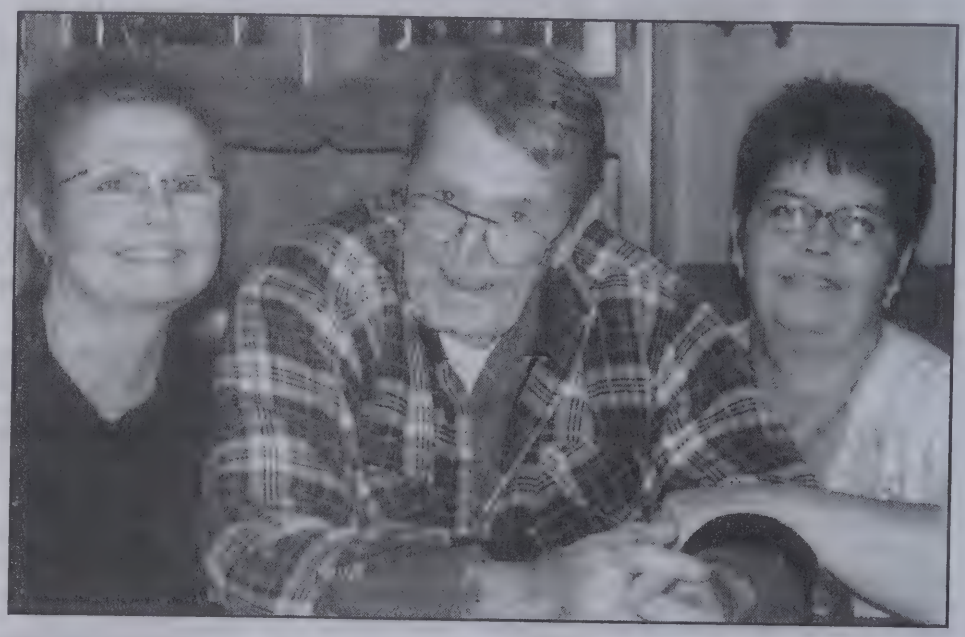
Mendy joined the service in the early 1940s. He served with the U.S. Army from 1942-46, where he saw combat in the Pacific Theater.

After that, Mendy lived in Colorado, where he was a restaurant and bar owner. Upon moving to Steuben County, Mendy worked as a bartender at The Beachcomber, the bar at Bledsoe's Beach on Lake James.

Other Steuben County business ventures included heavy equipment operation for local builder Mike Klink and owning a ceramics shop in Angola and a sawmill in Hamilton.

While living in West Palm Beach, Fla., Mendy worked as a dispatcher for Walbro County and as a security officer for Wells Fargo Services.

"What he liked best was probably operating the heavy equipment," Carla said.



**Harold "Mendy" Mendenhall, who died on Dec. 31, is pictured flanked by his daughters Terrie Gray of Ossian, left, and Carla Holloway of Angola.**

Mendy married his wife Betty Jane, Carla's stepmother (to whom she was very close) on Oct. 3, 1964. Betty became ill in 2001, and she and Mendy moved to Angola to be closer to Carla and her husband, Jon. Betty died on June 2, 2002.

Mendy moved in with Carla and Jon this past August, where the couple had built a wood shop for Mendy.

"He really liked that. He made all kinds of birdhouses and things like that," Carla said. "Any kind of woodworking he'd try. It didn't always turn out beautiful, but he'd try."

Carla and Jon opened a tavern in Angola, Wacky Jac's, a few years ago. Mendy loved to go there, and there is a wooden horse he made on display in the establishment.

"He had all the great ideas for that place," Carla said with a smile in her voice. "Of all the jobs he had, he was pretty much always a bartender, at least as a part-time job. He had done it for years and I figured he knew what he was talking about."

This past October, Mendy became very ill. Carla and her siblings — four brothers and a sister — made the difficult decision to put their father in a nursing home.

"Right up until probably six months before that, he was still driving," Carla said.

Carla described her father as "a fun-loving guy."

"He had a lot of friends," she said. "He knew a lot of people."

Describing who her father was in a few words was difficult for Carla, but she said having to remember all that he did in his long life would have been harder yet.

"I was telling people at his memorial service that if we had to list everything Dad ever did, it would take 100 pages," she said with a laugh.

## Alice Egolf

ASHLEY — Alice J. (Whan) Egolf, 78, of Ashley died Saturday, Jan. 20, 2007, at home.

Mrs. Egolf was born in Allen County on Nov. 30, 1928, to Arthur and Martha (Klinger) Conrad. She attended Hudson United Methodist Church.

She was first married to Guy Whan, who preceded her in death on Sept. 24,1968. She married Harold M. Egolf on May 16, 1969, and he survives.

Also surviving are three sons and a daughter-in-law, Kent and Sharon Whan of Auburn, Phil Whan of Kendallville and Terrill Whan of Garrett; four sisters, Luella Stabler and Judith Conrad, both of Fort Wayne, Virginia Scheurich of Kendallville and Helen Battocletti of Amherst, Ohio; six grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by three brothers, Donald, Russell and Lloyd Conrad.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Johnson Funeral Home, Hudson, with the Rev. Becky Brault officiating. Calling will be Monday from 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m.

Burial will be in Circle Cemetery, Hudson. Casket bearers will be Kent Whan, Brent Whan, Phil Whan, Rob Whan, Charles Ackman, Kyle Whan and Tim Obermyer.

Before her death, Mrs. Egolf requested no flowers. In lieu, memorials are to DeKalb Hospice.

## Robert Raub

FORT WAYNE — Robert J. Raub, 93, died Monday, Jan. 22, 2007, at Hospice Home in Fort Wayne.

Born in Auburn, he was a salesman with several rubber companies. He was a member of Resurrection Lutheran Church, where he was a Stephen Minister and sang in the choir.

Surviving are a nephew, John Raub of Peru, Ind.; two nieces, Barbara Dawson of Huntertown and Becky Freck of Nashville, Tenn.; and three sisters-in-law, Frances Freck of Huntertown, Barbara Hoffmeyer of Waterloo and Jackie Swain of Florida.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Loretta D. Raub; two brothers, Waldo and Richard Raub; and a niece, Belinda Sloffer.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 211 W. Ninth St., Auburn with calling from 9=10 a.m.. Pastor Forrest Van Gundy will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Additional calling will be from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. Wednesday at D.O. McComb & Sons Pine Valley Funeral Home, 1320 E. Dupont Road, Fort Wayne.

Memorials are to Resurrection Lutheran Church or Visiting Nurse & Hospice Home.

## Florede Bowman-Clark

AUBURN — Florede Violet Pence Bowman-Clark, 95, of Auburn died Monday, Jan. 22, 2007, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

She was a homemaker.

She was born Jan. 1, 1912, in DeKalb County to Frank and Nora (Wyatt) Pence. They preceded her in death.

She married her first husband, Duane E. Bowman, in 1929 and he preceded her in death. She married her second husband, Samuel Clark, in 1947, and he preceded her in death.

Surviving are three sons and a daughter-in-law, Donald Bowman, Jerry Bowman and Ronald and Cheryl Clark, all of Auburn; two daughters and a son-in-law, Shirley Baird of Auburn and Barbara and Marvin Buttermore of Waterloo; nine grandchildren and their spouses, Duane and Mary Bowman, Star and Jeff Noble, Charles "Kip" Baird Jr., Randall and Laura Baird, Jeffrey Baird, Bruce and Melissa Buttermore, Joseph and Jann Buttermore, Jill and Andrew Nisenshal and Jaclyn and Joshua Meyer; 24 great-grandchildren and six great-great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by two sons, Duane Bowman Jr. and Buddy Marvin Bowman; a daughter-in-law, Hazel Bowman; a son-in-law, Charles Baird Sr.; five sisters and one brother.

Services will be Thursday at 11 a.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. Burial will be in the Fairfield Cemetery near Corunna.

Calling will be Wednesday from 2-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Children First Center of Auburn.

## Robert West

PLEASANT LAKE — Robert C. West, 77, of Pleasant Lake died Saturday, Jan. 20, 2007, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. West

Mr. West was a shop superintendent for Production Piece Products in Fort Wayne for about 26 years. He then worked for L.L. Fittings in Fort Wayne as a machine operator.

He was a U.S. Air Force veteran, serving from Sept. 25, 1946, to Sept. 15, 1949.

He enjoyed fishing, Indiana University basketball and spending time with his family.

He was born Aug. 19, 1929, in Bedford to Herbert and Dorothy (Schultz) West. They preceded him in death.

He married Margaret Custer on Dec. 17, 1949, in Garrett. She died Feb. 26, 1998.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Richard and Kathy West of Fort Wayne; a daughter and son-in-law, Carol and Joseph McPherson of Pleasant Lake; a brother and sister-in-law, Herbert West Jr. and Gwen West of Tennessee; nine grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Linda Mosley; a son, Joseph West, and a brother and sister-in-law, Wayne and Mary West.

Services will be Thursday at 1 p.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with Steve Roscoe officiating. Burial will be in Cedar Creek Cemetery in rural Garrett.

Calling will be Wednesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to St. Jude Children's Hospital.

## Hildamae Steward

CHARLES CITY, Iowa — Hildamae Steward, 83, of Charles City, Iowa, died Sunday, Jan. 21, 2007, at Salsbury Baptist Home in Charles City.

She was born in Auburn on May 17, 1923, to Lloyd and Dorothy (Ferguson) Mitchner. They preceded her in death.

She graduated from Auburn High School in 1941.

She married Ray Steward on Nov. 28, 1942, in Auburn. The couple moved to Charles City in 1962. Her husband survives in Charles City.

She worked as a salesperson, office clerk and a teacher's aide at various locations during her life.

She was a member of the Saint John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Wildwood Ladies Golf, Judy Souer Sorority, Navy Mothers Club and Heritage Club.

She enjoyed watching educational and informational television shows. Her favorite shows were "The Victory Garden" and "British Comedy Hour." She enjoyed watching basketball. Her favorite team was the Bulls and her favorite athlete was Michael Jordan. She enjoyed playing golf in the summer and working on puzzle books.

Also surviving are a son, Patrick Steward of Charles City; two daughters and sons-in-law, Toni and Bob Pieper of Charles City and Amy and Randy Caster of Plainfield, Iowa; three grandchildren, Joe Acord and his wife, Stephanie, James Acord and Brent Steward; a great-granddaughter, Courtney Acord; a sister and brother-in-law, Ruth and Alva Grogg of Auburn; and several nieces and nephews.

Services will be Thursday at 2:30 p.m. (Indiana time) at Saint John Evangelical Lutheran Church with Pastor Dennis Niezwaag officiating. Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery.

Calling will be Wednesday from 6-9 p.m. (Indiana time) at Hauser Funeral Home, 1205 S. Main St., Charles City, and one hour before services Thursday at the church.

Memorials are to the Salsbury Baptist Home, 807 5th St., Charles City, IA 50616, or Hospice of North Iowa, 1003 Gilbert St., Charles City, IA 50616.

Hauser Funeral Home, www.hauserfh.com, is handling arrangements.

## Pete Savage

SEBRING, Fla. — Pete Savage, 77, formerly of Syracuse, died Nov. 10, 2006, in Sebring, Fla.

Mr. Savage was a 40-year employee of the former B&O Railroad in Garrett, first as an operator and agent. He later worked for the CSX Railroad as an engineer.

He is survived by a sister, two sons and a daughter.

There was no calling or services.

A memorial service will be held in Syracuse at a later date.

## Patricia Winchester

NEW HAVEN — Patricia A. Winchester, 66, of New Haven, died Monday, Jan. 22, 2007, at home with her loving family at her side.

Mrs. Winchester

She was born in Auburn and attended Lifeway Wesleyan Church. She worked at the Fort Wayne State Developmental Center in the Fiscal Affairs Department.

Surviving are her husband of 16 years, LeRoy; two daughters, Lynette Zimmerman of Dandridge, Tenn., and Jodie Zimmerman of Fort Wayne; two stepsons and their wives, Jim and Sharon Winchester of Bluffton and Rick and Michele Winchester of Edgerton, Ohio; a stepdaughter and her husband, Tamra and Stuart Stier of Leo; three brothers and sisters-in-law, Robert and Sharon Muhn, Thomas and Nancy Shellenbarger and Joe and Debbie Shellenbarger; a sister and brother-in-law, Kay and Larry Davisson; two grandchildren, Brent and Chad Dillon; 26 stepgrandchildren; six stepgreat grandchildren; and her loving pug, Lexy.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Perry Muhn and Anna Shellenbarger.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at E. Harper & Son Funeral Home, 740 S.R. 930 East, New Haven, with calling one hour before the service. Burial will be in Covington Memorial Gardens.

Additional calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Cancer Services of Allen County.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** *is being reprinted with new information about a relative.*

## Wayne Thomas

FRESNO, Calif. — Wayne D. Thomas, 88, of Fresno, Calif., died Monday, Jan. 15, 2007, at his home.

Mr. Thomas served his country during World War II as a U.S. Marine on the island of Iwo Jima.

Surviving are his wife, Aranka, in Fresno; a stepdaughter, Linda Bruce of Merced, Calif.; three daughters and two sons-in-law: Patty Sue and Ralph Aalders of Auburn, Nancy Deardorf of Auburn and Jerilyn and Robert Farver of Ashley; a son, James Thomas of Columbus, Ohio; 14 grandchildren, two stepgrandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Betty Hart and Janet and Bob Maxwell, all of Auburn; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father, Alva Thomas, his mother, Pauline (Quince) Thomas, and two brothers, Ronald and Richard Thomas.

Services were conducted Saturday in Whitehurst Sullivan Burns & Blair Funeral Home, Fresno. Interment was at San Joaquin Valley National Cemetary in Gustine, Calif.

A local memorial service will be at the Auburn Church of Christ, Eighteenth and Jackson streets, tonight at 7, with calling after 6:30 p.m.

## Thomas VanKirk

ANGOLA — Thomas Monroe VanKirk, 43, of Angola died Saturday, Jan. 20, 2007, at home.

Mr. VanKirk

Mr. VanKirk was born Nov. 30, 1963, in Phelps County, Mo. He enjoyed fishing and watching Indianapolis Colts games.

Surviving are his wife, Kathy; two sons, Nathan and Kyle VanKirk at home; a daughter, Vanessa VanKirk of Auburn; a granddaughter, Kayla Sanchez; his father, Thomas L. VanKirk of West Columbia, Texas; his mother, Darlene (Brakefield) McAbee of St. Louis, Mo.; four brothers; Larry, Steve, Frank and John; two sisters, Beverly and Yvette; and 10 nieces and four nephews.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Burr Funeral Home & Crematory, Sherwood, Ohio, with the Rev. George Alley officiating. Calling will be today from 4 to 8 p.m.

Burial will be in Sherwood Cemetery.

Memorials are to the charity of the donor's choice.

Condolences may be sent to the family and the on-line guest book may be signed at www.burrfh.com.

## Richard Schoof

AVILLA — Richard Clayton Schoof, 29, of Avilla died Monday, Jan. 22, 2007, in an automobile accident south of Antwerp, Ohio.

Mr. Schoof

He was employed with W.A. Jones in Columbia City as a sales representative.

In the past, he had worked in the construction business for many years with Parrish Homes of Avilla and Winebrenner Construction of Auburn. He also owned his own construction company, R.S. Construction.

Mr. Schoof graduated from DeKalb High School in 1997 and Tri-State University in 2001 with a Bachelor of Science degree in physical education. He attended Tri-State on a track scholarship and was an excellent pole vaulter.

Mr. Schoof was born in Fort Wayne on Nov. 7, 1977, to Rick A. and Imogene (Draper) Schoof. He married Cynthia Leigh Thomson on Sept. 1, 2001, in Trinity Church United Methodist in Kendallville.

He will be remembered as a good father and husband.

His other passions in life were collecting and repairing 1979 Ford pickup trucks and going "mudding." He loved to deer and turkey hunt. He played on a Fort Wayne softball league and enjoyed playing golf and Texas Hold'em poker.

He was a member of the American Pool Association and played with a league in Garrett. He was also a member of the Phi Kappa Theta Fraternity.

Surviving are his wife, Cyndie Schoof of Avilla; a daughter, Gracie May Schoof of Avilla; his father and mother, Rick "Stick" and Imogene Schoof of Auburn; his in-laws, Greg and Cathey McNeal of Corunna and Bill and Elissa Thomson of Midland, Mich.; a sister, Brandy Smith of Auburn; two nieces, Machaela and Shelby Smith of Auburn; a brother-in-law, Matthew McNeal of Corunna; paternal grandmother, Ruth Schoof of Auburn; maternal stepgrandmother, Lila Draper of Auburn; maternal grandmother-in-law, Donna Wright of Kendallville; and maternal grandparents-in-law, Tom and Alice Thomson of Sun City West, Ariz.

He was preceded in death by his paternal grandfather, Eugene Schoof; maternal grandfather, Raymond Draper Sr.; and maternal grandmother, Shirley Draper.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at First Christian Church, at the corner of Waits Road and S.R. 3 in Kendallville, with the Rev. Dr. Thomas Clothier officiating.

Burial will be at Avilla Cemetery in Avilla. Pallbearers will be Travis Maldeney, Jason Laughlin, Rick Frye, Jeremy Spidel, Jesse Robinson, Jason Robinson and Chad Carper.

Calling will be from 3-8 p.m. Thursday and Friday at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville.

Memorials are to a college fund for Gracie May Schoof in care of Cyndie Schoof.

To view a video tribute or send condolences, go to www.hitefuneralhome.com.

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## Janice (Hahn) Banes

LAFAYETTE — Janice E. (Hahn) Banes, 53, of Lafayette died Friday, Jan. 19, 2007, at her residence.

Mrs. Banes lived in Hamilton until the age of 17 and graduated from Logansport High School. She had worked in the chemistry lab at Purdue University for 12 years. She was a member of Heritage United Methodist Church. She enjoyed knitting, and camping, and was a member of the Willowwood Homemakers Association.

She was born March 13, 1953, in Angola to the late Harold and Mildred (Cummings) Hahn.

She married Robert "Bob" Banes on Sept. 14, 1985, and he survives.

Also surviving are a son, Christopher Miller of Delphi; a daughter and son-in-law, Yvonne and Cory Hardebeck of West Lafayette; two stepsons and their wives, Robert and Jessica Banes and John and Julie Banes, and a stepdaughter, Kelly Banes, all of Lafayette; a brother and sister-in-law Eugene and Sharon Hahn of Auburn; and eight grandchildren, Luke, Hannah, Jaden, Alexus, Madisyn, Bryce, Blair and Brandon.

A brother, Jerry Hahn, preceded her in death.

Services were held Monday at Hippensteel Funeral Home in Lafayette, with Pastor Bruce Mowery officiating. Burial was at Spring Vale Cemetery.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society or St. Elizabeth Home Health and Hospice.

Memories and condolences may be shared at www.hippensteelfuneralhome.com.

## O.J. Gaerte

COLUMBIA CITY — O.J. Gaerte, 84, of Columbia City died at 12:05 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2007, at his home.

Mr. Gaerte had retired as a lead man machine operator from Dana Corp. in Fort Wayne.

He and his wife, Virginia, were the owners of Gaerte Jonah Style Fish Fry catering business.

Mr. Gaerte was a member of the Tri-Lakes Lions Club, American Legion Post 98, Fraternal Order of Eagles Lodge 1906 and Loyal Order of the Moose, all of Columbia City, and the South Whitley Veterans of Foreign Wars Post.

He was a 1942 graduate of Wolf Lake High School and served in the U.S. Army from 1942-1946.

He was born Aug. 28, 1922, in Whitley County to Winfield and Elsie (Zumbrum) Gaerte. He married Virginia Trumbull in Knox on July 30, 1949. She died May 28, 1999.

Surviving are four sons and daughters-in-law, Richard and Sandy Gaerte of Indianapolis, O.J. Jr. and Hiwanda Gaerte of Lebanon, Tenn., and Leslie and Marcy Gaerte and Ronald and Tina Gaerte, all of Columbia City; a daughter and son-in-law, Vickie and Robert Wolfe of Phillips, Wis.; eight grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

He was also preceded in death by three sisters, Olive Biddle, Lova Grate and Frieda McCoy; four brothers, Curtis, Orville, Dale and Jack Gaerte; and one grandson, Joe Gaerte.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at DeMoney-Grimes Countryside Park Funeral Home, Columbia City, with Pastor Craig Myers of Blue River Church of the Brethren officiating. Burial will be in Christian Chapel Cemetery in Merriam.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. today at the funeral home with a twilight memorial service at 7:30 p.m.

Memorials are to Tri-Lakes Lions Club.

Condolences may be sent online to www.demoney-grimes.com.

## Gordon Dohner

BROOKVILLE, Ohio — Gordon J. Dohner, 85, died Saturday, Jan. 20, 2007, at his home in Brookville, Ohio.

Mr. Dohner was born Nov. 13, 1921, in Auburn to Harold and Dessie (Green) Dohner. He was a farmer and spent most of his life in Michigan.

Surviving are two daughters, Carol Zeigler of Butler and Brenda McGuire of Union, Mich.; two sons, Jerry Dohner of Butler and Don Dohner of Auburn; two sisters, Garland Blair of Hamilton and Mary Studer of Coldwater, Mich.; and a special friend, Betty Foster of Brookville, Ohio.

He was preceded in death by one daughter, Cynthia Cassell; two brothers, Norman Dohner and Dick Dohner; and one sister, Patricia Richards.

There will be no calling. Burial will be at a later date.

## Diana-Eileen Renfrow

BUTLER — Diana-Eileen Cameron Renfrow was stillborn Friday, Jan. 26, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Surviving are her parents, Darrell D. Renfrow Jr. and Leola (Christian) Renfrow of Butler; maternal grandparents Leola Diana Burnett and James Butler Burnett of South Carolina; paternal grandparents Darrell Renfrow Sr. and Louise Eileen Renfrow of Auburn; and siblings Nathaniel, Forrest, Coy and Cyrus Renfrow and Chelsea, Jessica and Michaela Floyd, all of Butler.

Graveside services will be Monday at 1 p.m. in Roselawn Cemetery of Auburn.

McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, is handling arrangements.

## Karl Gilmore

HUNTERTOWN — Karl E. Gilmore, 83, of Huntertown died Thursday, Jan. 25, 2007, at his home.

Mr. Gilmore worked at Dana Corp. for 42 years and served in the U.S. Army. He was born Jan. 5, 1924, in Missouri.

Surviving are his wife of 63 years, Mabel Smith Gilmore; a son, James Gilmore of Fort Wayne; three daughters, Karole Bednarczyk of Garrett, Michelle Gilmore of San Diego and Lori Winebrenner of Avilla; five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Burial will be in Huntertown Cemetery.

Advantage Funeral & Cremation Services is handling arrangements.

The EVENING STAR
January 28 2007 Auburn, Indiana

# Honaker 'Granny' to all who knew her

BY VIV ROSSWURM
vivianr@kpcnews.net

WOLCOTTVILLE — Winston Churchill once said, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

Anna Florence "Granny" Honaker of Wolcottville worked hard for over 75 years, right up until the age of 92, and gave her all at every job she ever worked at, according to her friend and former co-worker, Faye Silver of Stroh.

"She was always such a hard worker, and we always had fun when we worked together," Silver remembers.

Anna Honaker died Jan. 13 at her home in Wolcottville. She was 96.

"My philosophy is to start each day with a soft, kind word, a smile on your lips, and a twinkle in your eye, and God will do the rest," Anna told a reporter in 2000.

Anna began working at the young age of 10 at a boarding house in Kentucky, where she helped manage the kitchen and cook for the railroad workers who frequented the restaurant. Among the workers who showed up every morning for a healthy helping of Anna's delicious biscuits and gravy were her uncles, Bob Oakley and Newt Williams, her father, Floyd Lewis, and her future father-in-law, Ernest Honaker. All worked on the railroad.

Anna used to tell people that's when she developed her work ethic. She was one of eight children born to Floyd and Martha (Ratliff) Lewis, and all had various chores they were responsible for from the time they could walk, Anna said during the interview in 2000.

She married Roy Honaker on June 26, 1926, and the couple moved to Indiana. Anna was 16.

The only time Anna's outside work schedule came to a halt was during the years when she had four children, Keith, Barbara, Robert and James.

Once her youngest was in school, Anna returned to the workforce. She worked at McCray Refrigeration Co. in Kendallville during World War II and stayed there about six years.

She worked picking up potatoes at Wibles' farm, packing them into crates and hoisting them onto wagons.

She then went to work for Kirsch Co. in Sturgis, Mich., staying there and retiring after 29 1/2 years.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Anna "Granny" Honaker, right, is shown with her son, Keith Honaker and daughter, Barbara Barnes.**

But her son, Keith Honaker of Wolcottville, remembers she couldn't fully retire.

She went to work at Miller's Merry Manor in LaGrange as a nurses' aide for approximately three years and then worked in the meat department at the Wolcottville IGA from 1981 to 2002, when she permanently retired.

When her grandchildren came into the grocery store, they would yell, "Hello, Granny!" and soon her co-workers and members of the community were doing the same. She became "granny" to everyone who knew her.

She was well-known for slipping quarters into the hands of grandchildren as well as the children of shoppers, who knew that the quarter always came with a grandmotherly hug.

Anna's two surviving children, Keith Honaker and Barbara Barnes, also of Wolcottville, remember that after their father died in 1981, Anna had to buy a new car.

"She had always wanted a Cadillac," Keith Honaker said. "She went to a dealership and bought the best one they had, a big, blue Cadillac."

Barnes, who has the same petite, 5-foot, slight build that her mother had, laughs with her brother when they recall that Anna would drive the car down the streets of Wolcottville and neighboring communities and no one could see her head over the steering wheel.

"They'd see that blue Cadillac coming and say, 'Here comes Granny,'" Keith Honaker said.

Anna's bosses, as well as her co-workers, enjoyed working when Anna was on the schedule. She could always be counted on to fill in for someone who was sick or wanted the day off, Keith Honaker said.

Anna worked so hard that once she was inadvertently locked in at the IGA store and had to call the police to come and let her out, Barnes said.

"She knew everyone in the area," said Keith Honaker. "She was still pretty sharp when she died, but after she quit working at the age of 92, she wasn't the same. She went downhill once she did not have to report to work. She enjoyed it that much."

## Lynn Bender

BUTLER — Lynn O. Bender, 81, died Saturday, Jan. 27, 2007, at the Laurels of DeKalb nursing home in Butler.

Mr. Bender was born Jan. 16, 1926, in Butler. He worked as a supervisor at Holsum Bakery for more than 30 years, retiring in 1993. He was a scale master at Irving Gravel for nine years.

He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, from 1943-46, and was a member of American Legion Post 202 in Butler. He loved gardening and antiques.

Surviving are his wife, Vicki L. Bender of Butler; a son and daughter-in-law, Colynn and Sue Bender of Spencerville; two daughters and sons-in-law, Mandy and Brian Capp of Butler and Joy and Jeremiah Parker of Auburn; two sisters, Marie Hug of Edon, Ohio and Glenna Davis of Georgia; seven grandchildren, Erik Bender of Spencerville, Abagail Capp, Madison Capp and Logan Capp, all of Butler; Jeremy Vakerics of North Carolina, Andrew Poffenberger of Fort Wayne and Jackson Parker of Auburn; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Pauline Maxine Bender, in 1993; his parents, Olan and Edith (Little) Bender; and a sister, Irene.

Services will be Tuesday at 10 a.m. in McComb, Dilgard and Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Monday from 4-8 p.m. and Tuesday from 9-10 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to a charity of the donor's choice.

## Lucile Newlin

AUBURN — Lucile Johnston Newlin, 91, of Auburn, died Saturday, Jan. 27, 2007, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

She was the co-owner of Johnston Ceramic Studio in Fort Wayne.

She was born June 1, 1915, in Fort Wayne to Ernest and Amanda (Warstler) Frankfather.

She was married three times to Harry Johnston, Ed Matson, and John Newlin. They all preceded her in death.

A graduate from South Side High School in Fort Wayne, she was a member of the Indiana Village Church of God in Auburn and the Chicago Art Institute. She was a winner of the State Art Contest.

Surviving are a daughter, Annette (Dean) Woodard of Auburn; a daughter in law, Virginia Johnston of Traverse City, Mich.; seven grandchildren, Barry Johnston of Traverse City, Mich., Cheryl Blish and Michael Johnston, both of Rockford, Mich., Karen Hovey of Grand Rapids, Mich, Teri Young of Elkhart, Brian Johnston of Maple City, Mich, and Tracey Woodard of Butler; 16 great grandchildren; and 7 great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her three husbands; a son, Richard Lee Johnston; two brothers, Victor and Paul Frankfather; a sister, Evelyn Mae Hoggatt; and a great-grandson, Zachary Johnston.

Services will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. at Feller Funeral Home in Waterloo with the Rev. Raymond Warner officiating.

Calling will be Monday from 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Burial will take place at St. Joseph Riverside Cemetery in Montpelier, Ohio.

Memorials are to the Activity Department of Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

## Erna A. King

AVILLA — Erna A. King, 90, of Avilla and formerly of Auburn, died Friday, Jan. 26, 2007, at Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla.

King owned and operated her own business, King Interior/Exterior Decorating for 40 years, retiring in 1986.

She was born April 9, 1916, in Noble County to Frederick R. and Emma (Baden) Rathge. They are both deceased.

Mrs. King

On Jan. 30, 1933, she married Alex L. King in Albion. He preceded her in death.

She was a member of Grace Baptist Church in Auburn.

She is survived by three sons and two daughters-in-law, William G. and Pat King of Auburn, Robert W. King of Rome City, and Randal A. and Pam King of Waterloo; three daughters, Shirley A. Douglas of Eutus, Fla., Rebecca L. Robinson of Auburn, and Linda M. "Lynne" Bireley of Waterloo; 20 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; and 12 great-great-grandchildren.

She also was preceded in death by her parents; a son, Richard King; six brothers, William, Frederick, Arthur, Herman, Alvin and Henry Rathge; three sisters, Sylvia Snyder, Hilda H. Hickman, and Mildred K. Fasnaugh; and two grandchildren, Kris Douglas and Joey Robinson.

Services will be Tuesday at 2 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home in Auburn with Ray Carter and Rev John Napier officiating.

Calling will be Monday from 1 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Burial will be at Roselawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Memorials can be directed to Grace Baptist Church, 105 South Dewey Street, Auburn, IN, 46706.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** *is being reprinted to include a photograph.*

## Lynn Bender

BUTLER — Lynn O. Bender, 81, died Saturday, Jan. 27, 2007, at the Laurels of DeKalb nursing home in Butler.

**Mr. Bender**

Mr. Bender was born Jan. 16, 1926, in Butler. He worked as a supervisor at Holsum Bakery for more than 30 years, retiring in 1993. He was a scale master at Irving Gravel for nine years.

He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, from 1943-46, and was a member of American Legion Post 202 in Butler. He loved gardening and antiques.

Surviving are his wife, Vicki L. Bender of Butler; a son and daughter-in-law, Colynn and Sue Bender of Spencerville; two daughters and sons-in-law, Mandy and Brian Capp of Butler and Joy and Jeremiah Parker of Auburn; two sisters, Marie Hug of Edon, Ohio and Glenna Davis of Georgia; seven grandchildren, Erik Bender of Spencerville, Abagail Capp, Madison Capp and Logan Capp, all of Butler; Jeremy Vakerics of North Carolina, Andrew Poffenberger of Fort Wayne and Jackson Parker of Auburn; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Pauline Maxine Bender, in 1993; his parents, Olan and Edith (Little) Bender; and a sister, Irene.

Services will be Tuesday at 10 a.m. in McComb, Dilgard and Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be today from 4-8 p.m. and Tuesday from 9-10 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to a charity of the donor's choice.

## James Lutter

LAOTTO — LaOtto businessman James E. Lutter, 73, died unexpectedly at 4:20 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 28, 2007, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne where he had submitted to routine surgery earlier in the week.

Mr. Lutter

Mr. Lutter was co-owner of LaOtto Farm Supply since 1972 and remained active in the family business. He was also engaged in farming in Swan Township.

Mr. Lutter moved to the LaOtto area as a child and graduated from Huntertown High School.

He served in the U.S. Army and had been employed at J.I. Case in Churubusco at one time.

Mr. Lutter was a member of Emmanuel Lutheran Church in LaOtto. He was also a member of Huntertown Lodge 689 F&AM.

He had served on the LaOtto Volunteer Fire Department for many years and had been a 4-H leader in Swan Township for 24 years.

Mr. Lutter enjoyed hunting and had taken extended hunting trips to the western United States and to Africa.

He was born March 2, 1933, in Starke County to Wilhelm Fredrick and Predonna (Yarian) Lutter. He married Beverly Rhodes on Oct. 5, 1953. She survives.

Also surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Randy and Diane Lutter and Dexter and Cindy Lutter, all of LaOtto; four brothers and three sisters-in-law, Clarence Lutter and Ralph and Lois Lutter, all of LaOtto, Bill and Della Lutter of Huntertown, and Bob and Sharon Lutter of Fort Wayne; eight grandchildren and their spouses, Renee and Chae Dolsen, Ryan Lutter, Kelly and Jason Noble, Jamie and Corey Bailey, Becky and Jake Robinson, Sterling Lutter, Jeremy and Jen Lutter and Jason and Amanda Lutter; and six great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Gwendoline E. "Gwen" Liggett, on July 16, 2006.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Sheets & Childs Funeral Home in Churubusco with Pastor Sue Socha of Emmanuel Lutheran Church officiating. Burial will be in Bethlehem Cemetery north of LaOtto with military graveside rites.

Calling will be from 2-8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home and one hour prior to services Thursday. Huntertown Lodge 689 F&AM will conduct memorial services at 8 p.m. Wednesday.

Memorials are to Swan Township 4-H or the American Cancer Society.

Condolences are to sympathy@sheetsandchilds.net.

## James Hovarter

KENDALLVILLE — James Hovarter, 76, of Kendallville died Sunday, Jan. 28, 2007, at his home with his family by his side.

Mr. Hovarter

Mr. Hovarter was an accomplished dairy and crop farmer and loved telling stories of farming with horses and about the Depression. He and his brother, Jack, were partners in Hovarter Farms.

He played a major role in the introduction of no-till farming to Noble County in the 1970s. His passion for farming earned him the Conservation Farmer of the Year award in 1981 and Soil Conservation Farmer of the Year award in 1983.

Mr. Hovarter retired from farming in 1990 and spent his time traveling with his wife and working part-time at Colwell General in Kendallville.

Mr. Hovarter had served on the Noble County REMC Board of Directors and Farmers Mutual Insurance Board of Directors. He was a member of the Farm Bureau and the National Farmers Association.

He was a devout Christian and devoted member of Mt. Pleasant Lutheran Church where he served on the church council for several years and also as the Sunday school treasurer. He and his wife helped sponsor the Youth Luther League.

Mr. Hovarter enjoyed hunting, fishing, traveling and gardening. He loved spending time with his children and grandchildren as well as his many friends.

He was born at his parents' home at Indian Lake in DeKalb County on Nov. 18, 1930, to Warren E. and Cora (Beckberger) Hovarter. He attended Fairfield School and in the 1940s moved with his family to Noble County. He married his high school sweetheart, Joan Rose Barkey, on July 14, 1951, at Helmer United Methodist Church. She preceded his death April 21, 2006.

Surviving are two daughters and a son-in-law, Debra Clark of Kendallville and Deborah and Dan Harper of Albion; a son and daughter-in-law, Randy and Shelia Hovarter of Kendallville; a sister, Beatrice Davis of Kendallville; seven grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

He was also preceded in death by his brother, Jack Hovarter; a sister, Betty Easterday; and two half brothers, Virgil and Donald Getts.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Mt. Pleasant Lutheran Church, Kendallville, with Pastor Ann Marshall officiating. Burial will be in Fairfield Center Cemetery in DeKalb County. Pallbearers will be Josh Hovarter, Jason Hovarter, Brandon Harper, Mike Weigold, Tyson Wallace and Brian Brennan.

Calling will be from 3-8 p.m. Wednesday at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville and one hour before the service Thursday at the church.

Memorials are to Mt. Pleasant Lutheran Church.

View a video tribute or send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com

## Robert Martin

AUBURN — Robert Clinton Martin, 91, of Auburn died Monday, Jan. 29, 2007.

Mr. Martin

Mr. Martin served his country in World War II. He retired from Tokheim. He was involved with Full Gospel, National League of Prayer, Washington for Jesus, Bibles for Russia and Michigan City Jail Ministry. He collected clothes for the needy and was involved with many other ministries.

He was born May 26, 1915, in Adams County to Frank and Sarah (Arnold) Martin.

He married Nora Alice Wilson on Oct. 15, 1941. She died Sept. 12, 1985

He then married Martha McClish on Oct. 14, 1989, and she survives.

Also surviving are 24 nieces and nephews: Mary Lou Riney, Marshall, Mo.; Martin Lee White, Sunrise Beach, Mo.; Betty Joan Walters, Decatur; David Martin, Waterloo; Russell Martin, Orlando, Fla.; Steven Martin, Fort Wayne; Michael Martin, Fort Wayne; Marlene Griffis, Union City; Melody Tyler, Spencerville; Randall Martin, Auburn; Ardola Burkhart, Monroe; Ralph Parrish, Berne; Arlene Workinger, Monroe; Jerry Franz, Burleson, Texas; Jim Franz, Decatur; Dorothy Lynn, St. Marys, Ohio; Barbara Miller, Harlan; Sarah Ziegenfus, Allentown, Pa.; Elbert Schumm, Hamilton, Ohio; Robert Schumm, Rockford, Ohio; Jane Fisher, Rockford, Ohio; Herbert Schumm, Spencerville, Ohio; Cheryl Spirer, Monroeville, Pa; and Neil Martin, Muskegon, Mich.; four stepchildren, Rebecca Wisner, Auburn; Marianne Jenkins, Cincinnati, Ohio; Sally Barindale, Richmond; and James McClish, Nashville; 13 stepgrandchildren, 12 stepgreat grandchildren and seven stepgreat-great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by eight brothers, six sisters, and a nephew, Paul Scheiderer, in addition to his parents and first wife.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at the Decatur Church of God, 1129 Mercer Ave., Decatur. Pastor Mike Cain will officiate. Burial will be in Decatur Cemetery with military graveside rites by American Legion Post 43.

Calling will be from 2-8 Friday at Haggard & Sefton Funeral Home, 225 W. Adams St., Decatur, and from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Saturday at the church.

Memorial contributions are to Love Church in Fort Wayne or Fort Wayne Rescue Mission.

## Donald Somers

HARTFORD CITY — Donald E. Somers, 78, of Hartford City died at 2:30 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2007, in his home.

Mr. Somers had resided in Bluffton, Fort Wayne, Garrett and Cadiz, Ky., before moving to Hartford City in 1995. A machinist, he retired from B.F. Goodrich at Woodburn on Jan. 1, 1991.

He was a member of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church. He had belonged to the Third Order of St. Francis at Waynedale and the Knights of Columbus at Garrett.

A 1946 graduate of Bluffton High School, he was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II.

He was born April 16, 1928, in Decatur, the son of Darrell J. "Bud" and Naomi (DeBolt) Somers.

On July 30, 1950, he married Mary Jane Lambiotte in Hartford City. She survives.

Also surviving are nine children and their spouses, Nancy Cocopardi, Joey and William O'Donnell, Julia and Matthew Rider, Martha and Harper Peck, Daniel Somers, Leo Somers, John and Susan Somers, Sarah and Troy Rayle and Suzanne Somers; his grandchildren and their spouses, Gregory Barry, Kenneth Barry, John Barry, Matthew O'Donnell, Eric Mead, Gail Melchi, Lauren and Shaun Bricker, Brian Peck, Erin and Jeremy Shock, Andrew Somers, Libby Herendeen, Abigail Somers, Jaron Somers, Emily Somers, Paul Rayle and Aaron Rayle; seven great-grandchildren, Julia Mead, Kelly Mead, Anthony Mead, Lee Melchi, Kayla Melchi, Lucy Mack Somers and David Bricker; and his brothers and sisters and their spouses, Rita and Joseph Stark, Jacqueline and David Craven, Robert and Janice Somers, David and Karen Somers and James and Shirley Somers.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Richard O. Somers.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Friday in St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, 209 S. Spring St., Hartford City. The Rev. Robert Moran will officiate. Burial will be in the Hartford City Cemetery.

Calling will be at Waters Funeral Home, 501 W. Washington St., Hartford City, from 6-8 tonight and at the church from 9-9:30 a.m. Friday. A Christian wake service will begin at 7:30 tonight in the funeral home.

Memorials are to Masses.

## Jon Smith

FORT WAYNE — Jon Thomas Smith, 33, of Fort Wayne died Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2007, at Indiana University Medical Center in Indianapolis due to complications from surgery.

Mr. Smith

Mr. Smith was born Jan. 15, 1974, in DeKalb County. He worked for the past six years as an engineer for Norfolk Southern Railway. He was a 1992 graduate of Eastside High School and a 2006 graduate of Norfolk Southern Engineering School.

Surviving are his mother and stepfather, Sherry (Hunter) and Curt Harriman of Hamilton; his father and stepmother, Jerry and Cindy Smith of Auburn; two sisters and brothers-in-law, Beth and Leo Yilmaz of Fort Wayne and Lana and Bill Ott of Wexford, Pa.; a nephew, Alex Ott of Wexford, Pa.; his girlfriend, Jamie Alfred of Fort Wayne; four stepsisters and three stepbrothers.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Lyle and Yvonne Hunter and L.J. and Phyllis Smith, and an uncle, Ted Smith.

Services will be Friday at 3 p.m. in Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. The Rev. Ted Jansen will officiate. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery of Garrett.

Calling will be Friday from noon to 3 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to St. Joseph Institute for the Deaf in care of Trenton Thomas, 9192 Waldemar Road, Indianapolis IN 46268.

## Arlene Lenz

COLBY, Wis. — Arlene D. Lenz, 63, of Colby died Monday, Jan. 29, 2007, at her home with her family at her side. Mrs. Lenz had been ill with cancer for several years.

Mrs. Lenz was born Dec. 19, 1943, in Iron Mountain, Mich., to Earl and Mary (Whaley) Bush.

Mrs. Lenz

She was a member of Peace Lutheran Church.

Mrs. Lenz enjoyed horseback riding, fishing, reading and gardening.

Surviving are her husband, Gerald Lenz; two sons; three daughters; three grandchildren; two sisters, Florence Glick of Kendallville and Mildred Weigand of Wausau, Wis.; nephews, Brian Glick of Angola, Randy Glick of Auburn, Gary Glick of Dripping Springs, Texas, and Tim Glick of Three Rivers, Mich.; and a niece, Deanne Davis of Fremont.

A memorial service was held Thursday at Peace Lutheran Church in Edgar, Wis.

Memorials are to Peace Lutheran Church's ramp fund.

## Dustin Smith

FORT WAYNE — Dustin Smith, 27, of Fort Wayne died Thursday, Feb. 1, 2007, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne following a sudden illness.

Mr. Smith

Mr. Smith was born in Elkhart on March 21, 1979, to Timothy LeRoy and Marla S. (Yoder) Smith. He graduated from East Noble High School in 1997 and attended Ivy Tech in Fort Wayne. He was employed with United Parcel Service of Fort Wayne.

Mr. Smith is survived by his parents, Marla S. Branstetter of Fort Wayne, and Tim L. Smith of Kendallville; his fiance, Autum Dusseau of Fort Wayne; two children, Kyle and Destiny Smith of Fort Wayne; a sister and brother-in-law, Tia and Matthew Tackett of Fort Wayne; a brother, Noah Smith of Kendallville; a nephew, Noah Tackett of Fort Wayne; and three grandparents, Charlotte Smith of Kendallville, Dorothy Yoder of Waterloo, and Amos T. Yoder of Avilla.

He was preceded in death by his grandfather, Robert Smith, and stepfather, Robert Branstetter.

Services will be Wednesday at 2 p.m. at Hite Funeral Home, Kendallville. Pastor Scott Pattison will officiate. Burial will be at Cedar Creek Cemetery.

Calling will be Tuesday from 5 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials may be made to The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, The Travis Roy Foundation or to the Christopher Reeve Foundation.

View a video tribute or send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

## George Tuttle

PRESCOTT, Ariz. — George Tuttle, 74, of Prescott, Ariz., died Saturday, Jan. 27, 2007, at his home.

Mr. Prescott enjoyed ballroom dancing.

He was born Oct. 4, 1932, in DeKalb County to Clair and Sadie Haynes Tuttle.

He married Rosalie Cech on Oct. 29, 1977. She preceded him in death.

Surviving are two sisters, Marilyn Cook of Auburn and Zephyrhills, Fla., and Carolyn Debes of Auburn; and a brother, Frank "Bud" Tuttle of Garrett.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, Theron and Chalmer.

A memorial service will be at a later date.

# Daughters remember caring mom

BY JAMIE LEMKE-BARRAND
jamiel@kpcnews.net

PLEASANT LAKE — Joanna Varner liked taking care of people.

When she got older and retired, she ended up going back to work — as a homemaker for the Steuben County Council on Aging.

"She'd shop for people, do housework," said Joanna's daughter, Valerie.

Another of Joanna's daughters, Melanie, said her mother never really retired and would have kept going longer if she could have.

"She worked for the COA until she needed it herself," she said.

Joanna died at her Pleasant Lake home on Dec. 16, 2006, as the result of a pulmonary embolism. She was 70.

Valerie said in the time Joanna was working for the COA, there were four or five people she helped out and got very close to.

"Some of the people she helped were younger than her, and that bothered her," Melanie said.

Joanna also never got used to the fact that by nature of working with the elderly, some of them were going to pass away.

"She would be really hurt when she'd lose someone," Valerie said.

Melanie said a word that described her mother was "generous."

Valerie said she had a good sense of humor.

"She'd do anything for a photo," Valerie said with a smile. "She'd put on cowboy boots ..."

"Or a wig or false eyelashes," Melanie said.

Joanna worked at Dana-Weatherhead from 1966 until her retirement in 1994. She was born in Orland and graduated from Orland High School.

Joanna married William Varner in 1953. They had been married for 42 years when he died in February 1996.

"They worked so hard," Melanie said of her parents." They'd come home and they'd be so tired, but they'd still do things together ... they worked in the garden and they canned things."

Melanie and Valerie both recalled that their mother had a great love and talent for sewing.

"She started sewing when she was little," Valerie said. "She made of lot of her own clothes, and she made a lot of ours, too."

Joanna loved dogs, and over the years had several Boston terriers. The last one she had was named Zsa.

"About a month before she died, I got a Boston puppy," Valerie said, The puppy, christened Lulu, was a light in Joanna's life.

"She was just so tickled that I'd gotten her," Valerie said.

Canning was one of Joanna's greatest talents. She canned everything from peaches and plums to her own spaghetti sauce and salsa and all kinds of pickles.

Melanie said she wished she had inherited her mother's canning prowess, but she didn't.

"My dad and I tried to make pickles once. I don't know what we did, but it wasn't right," she said with a smile.

"Have you ever seen that episode of Andy Griffith, where they make all those pickles and have to throw them all away?"

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Joanna Varner shares a lighthearted moment with her daughters.**

Joanna's work ethic stemmed from a long way back. She began working when she was 10 or 11, her daughters said, taking babysitting jobs. When she got a little older, she took a job as a soda jerk at a soda fountain in Orland her uncle owned.

A few years ago, Joanna was diagnosed with diabetes. She suffered from neuropathy, but even during her illness, she rarely complained. She wanted to keep going on as she always had.

"It was important to her to live in her own home," Melanie said.

And she did just that, even though it made her daughters uneasy.

Her home was older, and it had porches and steps that became precarious for Joanna, especially after her diabetes led to her having to have two of her toes amputated.

"We would have liked it if she lived closer to town," Valerie said.

Even after her daughters moved out, Joanna still would mother them.

"She did a lot of things to surprise you," Melanie said. "You'd come home from work and she'd have left supper for you. I'd go to do her shopping, and she'd say, 'Make sure you get something for yourself.'"

Valerie said she will miss coming home to find crock pots of beans and baggies of cornbread in her breezeway.

"She took care of us," she said. "She was a worrier. She was protective. She was our mom."

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY IS**
*being republished with additional information*

## Dustin Smith

FORT WAYNE — Dustin Smith, 27, currently living in Fort Wayne and formerly of Kendallville, died Thursday, Feb. 1, 2007, at Parkview Memorial Hospital in Fort Wayne following a sudden illness.

**Mr. Smith**

He was born in Elkhart on March 21, 1979, to Timothy LeRoy and Marla S. (Yoder) Smith.

He graduated from East Noble High School in 1997 and attended Ivy Tech in Fort Wayne. In the past, he was employed with United Parcel Service of Fort Wayne.

Mr. Smith loved spending time with his kids, enjoyed football, watching sports, and working with computers at his home. He was witty and loved to make people laugh. He was often joking around with others. He also was always looking for ways to help other people.

Surviving are his mother, Marla S. Branstetter of Fort Wayne; his father, Tim L. Smith of Kendallville; his fiancee, Autum Dusseau of Fort Wayne; two children, Kyle and Destiny Smith, both of Fort Wayne; a sister and brother-in-law, Tia and Matthew Tackett of Fort Wayne; a brother, Noah Smith of Kendallville; a nephew, Noah Tackett of Fort Wayne; his grandmothers, Charlotte Smith of Kendallville and Dorothy Yoder of Waterloo; and a grandfather, Amos T. Yoder of Avilla.

He was preceded in death by his grandfather, Robert Smith, and by his stepfather, Robert Branstetter, in August 2006.

Services will be Wednesday at 2 p.m. at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville, officiated by Pastor Scott Pattison. Burial will be at Cedar Creek Cemetery.

Calling will be Tuesday from 5-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, The Travis Roy Foundation or to the Christopher Reeve Foundation.

To view a video tribute (after Monday) or send condolences to the family, visit the Web site www.hitefuneralhome.com

## Rose Gabet

BUTLER — Rose E. Gabet, 86, died Saturday, Feb. 3, 2007, in Betz Nursing Home of Auburn.

Mrs. Gabet

Mrs. Gabet was a loving mother and homemaker.

She was born March 5, 1920, in Auburn to Walter and Mable (Goetschius) Housel.

On Oct. 12, 1940, in New Haven, she married Arthur A. Gabet. He died March 4, 2006.

Surviving are three daughters and two sons-in-law, Rose Ann and Jerry Dohner of Butler, Patricia and Charles Miller of Hicksville, Ohio, and Ellen Kelder of Garrett; two sons and a daughter-in-law, Michael and Pamela Gabet and Richard Gabet, all of Butler; 11 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a son, Ronald; and a sister, Rhea Berry.

Services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. in H.E. Johnson & Son Funeral Home, 212 N. Broadway, Butler. Burial will be in Maple Grove Cemetery at Edgerton, Ohio.

Calling will be Tuesday from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m.

Memorials are to DeKalb Hospice.

Condolences may be left online at www.hejohnsonfh.com.

## Howard Clark

AVILLA — Howard L. Clark, 71, of Avilla died Monday, Feb. 5, 2007, at Parkview Noble Hospital in Kendallville.

Mr. Clark was a truck driver for Northern Indiana Trucking Co. and a self-employed excavator. He was a member of American Legion Post 240 in Avilla and Teamsters Union Local 414, Fort Wayne.

He was born Aug. 23, 1935, in Deckard County, Tenn., to Jack and Nellie (Smith) Clark. They preceded him in death.

He married Connie Hixson on July 14, 1978, in Allen County, and she survives.

Also surviving are a son, Thomas Clark of Indianapolis; a daughter, Patricia Howey of New Haven; three stepsons, David Barry and his wife, Tammy, of Corunna, Jeff Barry of Garrett and Todd Barry and his wife, Rosemary, of Avilla; a brother, John L. Clark of Wake Forest, N.C.; two sisters, Kathy Davis of Fort Wayne and Louise Howard of Wake Forest, N.C.; and nine grandchildren, Jonathan Howey, Laura Howey, Andrew Barry, Tyler Barry, Justin Barry, Joseph Barry, Kennedy Barry, Christa Barry and Zachary Barry.

He was preceded in death by a son, James Clark, and a stepson, Timothy Barry.

Services will be Friday at 2 p.m. in Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with David Fry officiating. Burial will be in Cedar Creek Cemetery of Garrett.

Calling will be Thursday from 5-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the East Noble School Corp., Avilla Special Needs Pre-School Program, in care of Mary Casselman, 702 Dowling St., Kendallville, IN 46755.

## Charley Smyth

HAMILTON — Charley S. Smyth, 75, of Hamilton died Monday, Feb. 5, 2007, at the Laurels of DeKalb Nursing Home in Butler.

Mr. Smyth was a retired independent truck driver. He served in the U.S. Marines during the Korean conflict. He was a member of American Legion Post 202 in Butler and the Hamilton Odd Fellows and was a retired member of the Hamilton Fire Department.

He was born Dec. 8, 1931, in Franklin Township to Lemuel and Rosie (Schrader) Smyth.

He married Margaret J. Crowley on May 10, 1955, in Thailand. She died Aug. 31, 1997.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Joy and JB Bassett of Butler; two grandchildren, Jenny Bassett and John Bassett, both of Hamilton; two brothers, Jim and Frank Smyth, both of Butler; and four sisters, Janet Krieger of Churubusco and Linda Blackburn, Jane Smyth and Mag Upp, all of Butler.

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. in H.E. Johnson & Son Funeral Home, 212 N. Broadway, Butler.

Burial will be in St. Michael's Cemetery at Waterloo.

Calling will be Thursday from 2-7 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to DeKalb Home Health and Hospice.

Condolences are to www.hejohnsonfh.com.

## Ruth Gilbert

BLUFFTON, Ohio — Ruth Valdean Gilbert, 92, of Bluffton, Ohio, died Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2007, at 11:05 a.m. at the Mennonite Memorial Home in Bluffton.

Mrs. Gilbert and her husband, John, founded and operated Associated Plastics in Pandora, where she was secretary and treasurer.

She was the last teacher to teach at the Black School in Orange Township. She also taught third grade for two years in Ada. She had worked at Triplett Corp. in Bluffton and the Boss Glove Factory in Bluffton.

She was a member of the Bluffton Presbyterian Church, Bluffton Senior Citizens and the Hancock County Genealogical Society.

She was salutatorian of her 1932 Bluffton High School graduating class, a 1936 graduate of Bluffton College and attended Ohio Northern University.

She was born Aug. 16, 1914, in Orange Township, Hancock County, Ohio, to Roy and Katie (Bower) Cunningham.

She married John W. Gilbert on April 28, 1940, and he survives.

Also surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Karen and David Bash of Auburn; three grandchildren, Tamela Bash, Eric Bash and Danielle Bash; and a great-grandchild, Kaitlin Kiser.

Services will be Friday at 10:30 a.m. in Chiles-Laman Funeral Home, Bluffton, Ohio, with the Rev. Lew VanderNaald and Chaplain William Herr officiating. Burial will be in Thompson Cemetery of Bluffton.

Calling will be Thursday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Bluffton Presbyterian Church or Mennonite Memorial Home.

## Donald Konger

CHURUBUSCO — Donald Francis Konger, 77, of rural Churubusco died at 8:20 p.m. Monday, Feb. 5, 2007, at his home.

Mr. Konger

Mr. Konger was a farmer and owned Konger Electric Products. He had also worked for Magnavox, Raytheon and Lake City Bank.

He was a 1948 graduate of Huntertown High School and received a degree from Indiana Tech.

Mr. Konger was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean conflict.

He was a strong man of unfaltering faith and a lifetime member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church at Ege. He was also a member of the Garrett Knights of Columbus, Churubusco VFW Turtle Post 3846, Churubusco Gilbert Davis American Legion 157 and the Fort Wayne Civil Air Patrol.

He was born Dec. 16, 1929, in Noble County to Joseph and Anna (Molargik) Konger. He married Rosemary Minnich on May 3, 1958, at St. Joseph Catholic Church at Hessen Cassel. She survives.

Also surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Steve and Kathy Konger of Fort Wayne and Tim Konger of Churubusco; five daughters and sons-in-law, Denise and Mark Ramsey of Columbia City, Brenda and Scott Reynolds of Churubusco and Cammy and Mike Smith, Lisa and Jeremy Greenway and Dr. Sheila and Chris Falloon, all of Fort Wayne; three brothers and sisters-in-law, Ray and Mary Ann Konger and Bernie and Maggie Konger, all of Fort Wayne, and Bob and Barb Konger of Winterhaven, Fla.; three sisters and brothers-in-law, Regina and George Frazier of Fort Wayne, Laura and Chuck Nicodemus of Indianapolis and Wanda and Jack Walcutt of Huntertown; a sister-in-law, Mary Ann Konger of Tarpon Springs, Fla.; 18 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; three brothers, Lawrence Konger, Tony Konger and Jim Konger; and two grandchildren.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Friday at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church at Ege with Father Danney Pinto officiating. Burial will be in Ege Catholic Cemetery.

Calling will be from 2-8 p.m. Thursday at Sheets & Childs Funeral Home in Churubusco.

Memorials are to Masses or to Immaculate Conception Catholic Church.

Condolences may be sent online to sympathy@sheetsandchilds.net.

## Peggy Scott

KENDALVILLE — Peggy A. Scott, 65, of Kendallville died Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2007, at Shepherd of the Hill nursing home in Kendallville where she had been admitted Feb. 2.

Mrs. Scott

Mrs. Scott had been employed with King-Seeley and Eaton Corp. in Kendallville since 1975.

She graduated from Auburn High School in 1959.

Mrs. Scott enjoyed hummingbirds and crocheting and loved her dog, Starr. She always looked forward to spending time with her grandchildren.

Mrs. Scott was born July 30, 1941, in Butler to Jay Ross and Carrie Marie (Marx) Thompson. Her parents preceded her death. She married Eldon Leo Scott on July 2, 1960, in Kendallville and he preceded her death April 6, 2006.

Surviving are four sons and a daughter-in-law, Kenneth and Debra Scott, Mark Scott and Craig Scott, all of Kendallville, and Dennis Scott of Cromwell; two daughters and sons-in-law, Anne and James Williams and Kami and Anthony Conroy, all of Kendallville; three sisters, Edna Miller of Litchfield, Ky., Donna Morrow of Fort Wayne and Virginia Chard of Angola; a brother, Richard Thompson of Washington; 11 grandchildren, Abigail Cox, Brandon Scott, Zane Scott, Fawn Scott, Meagan Williams, Heather Scott, Andrew Williams, Tyra Williams, Brendan Conroy, Cody Conroy and Joshua Conroy; and six great-grandchildren, Aliyah, Jarrett, Madelyn, Collin, Kalli and Kace.

She was also preceded in death by two brothers, Charles and Ralph Thompson; and a sister, Patty Thompson, who died at an early age.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Sunday at Hite Funeral Home, Kendallville, with Father Jacob Gall officiating. Burial will be at Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville.

Calling will be from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the National Breast Cancer Foundation.

View a video tribute or send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

## Andrew Pastor

AVILLA — Andrew F. Pastor, 84, of Avilla and formerly of Pleasant Lake died Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2007, at Sacred Heart Home in Avilla.

Mr. Pastor was born on June 20, 1922, in Chicago to Frank and Anna (Folk) Pastor. He was in the Marine Corps during World War II from 1944-46, and was involved in the Battle of Iwo Jima.

He was a tool and die maker for Dana-Weatherhead, retiring in 1987.

He married Nelda Lanning in Bronson, Mich. on Aug. 31, 1951. She preceded him in death on Feb. 11, 1993.

Mr. Pastor

He was a member of St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in Angola, Angola Moose Lodge No. 1568, Angola American Legion Post No. 31 and Weatherhead Local 1406.

Surviving is a son, Brent Pastor and his companion Sandra of Howe; two daughters and sons-in-law, Lewis and Monica (Pastor) McAllister of Garrett and Steve and Andrea (Pastor) Brangan of Fort Wayne; four grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and several stepgrandchildren and step-great-grandchildren.

He was also preceded in death by a brother, Joseph Pastor, and a sister, Rose Schaffer.

Services will be Monday at 11 a.m. at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church. Calling will be Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. at H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Angola.

Burial will be in Greenlawn Cemetery, Orland.

Memorials are to St. Jude Children's Hospital, the Alzheimer's Association or Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home.

Condolences can be left online at www.hejohnsonfh.com.

## Donald Davis

BUCHANAN, Mich. — Donald Davis, 75, of Buchanan, Mich., died of natural causes Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2007, at 1:20 a.m. at a hospital in Niles, Mich.

Mr. Davis, a U.S. Army veteran, was a retired tree trimmer and was working as a security guard.

He was born March 20, 1931, to Frederick and Bernice (Cross-Crabtree) Davis. His mother survives in Ohio.

He married Margie Cole on June 5, 1954. She died Jan. 10, 1993.

On Oct. 12, 1993, he married Rachael Stoudt. She survives.

Also surviving are a son, Glenn Davis of Mishawaka; two granddaughters, Hannah and Esther Davis; two sisters, Dorothy Reece of Lodi, Ohio, and Doris Schortgen of Waterloo; and one brother, Dorman Davis of Butler.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday in Hoven Funeral Home, 414 E. Front St., Buchanan, Mich. Burial will be in Oak Ridge Cemetery in Buchanan, Mich.

Calling will be from 5-8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

## John Fee

HAMILTON — John E. Fee, 82, died Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2007, at Regency Place in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Fee worked in television and appliance repair all his life. He retired from Scott's TV and Appliance in Angola.

He was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army in 1952 and was a member of the Angola post of Veterans of Foreign Wars. He attended Christian Assembly of God Church in Butler.

He was born Feb. 21, 1924, in Adrian, Mich., to Earl and Vera (Turner) Fee. They preceded him in death.

Surviving are four sisters, Eleanor Smith of Waterloo, Doris Tilghman of Florida, Betty Simpson of Fremont and Blanche, several nieces and nephews and great-nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Maynard Fee, and a half-broher, Alfred Fee.

Private family graveside services will be at a later date. There will be no calling.

Feller Funeral Home of Waterloo is handling arrangements.

*This obituary is being rerun to correct information regarding calling hours.*

## Peggy Scott

KENDALLVILLE — Peggy A. Scott, 65, of Kendallville died Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2007, at Shepherd of the Hill nursing home in Kendallville where she had been admitted Feb. 2.

**Mrs. Scott**

Mrs. Scott had been employed with King-Seeley and Eaton Corp. in Kendallville since 1975.

She graduated from Auburn High School in 1959.

Mrs. Scott enjoyed hummingbirds and crocheting and loved her dog, Starr. She always looked forward to spending time with her grandchildren.

Mrs. Scott was born July 30, 1941, in Butler to Jay Ross and Carrie Marie (Marx) Thompson. Her parents preceded her death. She married Eldon Leo Scott on July 2, 1960, in Kendallville and he preceded her death April 6, 2006.

Surviving are four sons and a daughter-in-law, Kenneth and Debra Scott, Mark Scott and Craig Scott, all of Kendallville, and Dennis Scott of Cromwell; two daughters and sons-in-law, Anne and James Williams and Kami and Anthony Conroy, all of Kendallville; three sisters, Edna Miller of Litchfield, Ky., Donna Morrow of Fort Wayne and Virginia Chard of Angola; a brother, Richard Thompson of Washington; 11 grandchildren, Abigail Cox, Brandon Scott, Zane Scott, Fawn Scott, Meagan Williams, Heather Scott, Andrew Williams, Tyra Williams, Brendan Conroy, Cody Conroy and Joshua Conroy; and six great-grandchildren, Aliyah, Jarett, Madelyn, Collin, Kalli and Kace.

She was also preceded in death by two brothers, Charles and Ralph Thompson; and a sister, Patty Thompson, who died at an early age.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Sunday at Hite Funeral Home, Kendallville, with Father Jacob Gall officiating. Burial will be at Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville.

Calling will be from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Saturday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the National Breast Cancer Foundation.

View a video tribute or send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

## Michael Shanyfelt

NORFOLK, Va. — Michael Shanyfelt, 24, died Thursday, Feb. 8, 2007, at Norfolk Naval Base in Norfolk, Va.

He joined the U.S. Navy after graduating from high school and had been stationed in Norfolk.

He was born Oct. 7, 1982, in Cleveland, Ohio.

Surviving are his father and stepmother, Daniel and Sandra Shanyfelt of Garrett; a brother, Alan Shanyfelt of Garrett; a stepsister, Shera Collins of Garrett; two stepbrothers, Chester O. Montgomery and Mathew Montgomery, both of Garrett; his grandparents, Henry and Anna Shanyfelt of Auburn and Sylvia Hoy of Cleveland; his stepgrandparents, Mossie Jennings of Columbus, Ohio, and Ed Jennings, also of Columbus, Ohio; and many cousins, including Michelle Hensley of Cleveland and Gary Sexton of Tennessee.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Eva Gump, in June 2003.

Arrangements are pending at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo.

# A life-long learner, teacher

## Irene Guinther was Indiana's teacher of the year in 1971

**BY VIV ROSSWURM**
vivianr@kpcnews.net

KENDALLVILLE — Irene M. Guinther was a life-long teacher. Her thirst for knowledge and her ability to pass it on to her students and everyone she encountered was a talent she possessed until the end.

Mrs. Guinther died Jan. 13, 2007, at the age of 95 at Miller's Merry Manor nursing home in Garrett.

She was born a coal miner's daughter on Aug. 13, 1911, in Sullivan. Her father, James L. Meurer, often said that Irene could tell off any of her six brothers or her sister — or anyone else — in the nicest way possible without ever using a bad word or raising her voice.

"My grandfather used to say that it took mom's brothers several minutes to realize that she (Irene) had just given them a verbal lashing," Nancy Treesh, Guinther's daughter, remembered.

According to Treesh, who lives in rural DeKalb County with her husband, Lauren, a cousin summed it up best in Mrs. Guinther's eulogy: "She was a teacher all of her life whether she was in front of a class or whether she was alone."

Treesh also remembers her mother breaking a stepsister's habit of swearing by making her put pennies in a "cuss jar" every time she swore.

"By and by, she got better," Treesh said. "She was 12 years old and that was in the 1940's — a jar of pennies added up to a lot of money. One day (the stepsister) told me that a horse had stepped on her foot and even though she wanted to, she had not uttered a single swear word. That's when we knew mother had 'cured' her bad habit."

Mrs. Guinther was honored as Indiana's outstanding teacher in 1971.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Irene Guinther is shown holding one of her great-grandchildren.**

She taught at Pleasantville High School for eight years, at Hobart Junior High School for four years and at J.E. Ober Elementary School in Garrett for 15 years, retiring in 1972.

She married Russell W. Guinther, who was known to everyone in the area as "Doc Guinther." Besides her daughter, she also had a son, Bill Guinther, who currently resides in Goshen with his wife, Dana.

Mrs. Guinther was well known in the area for her expertise and knowledge in plants and edible weeds.

Once at a community dinner, some of the guests were raving about Mrs. Guinther's salad and asked what the ingredients included.

"She told them dandelions and lamb's quarters, which are both considered weeds," Treesh said. "They were very surprised."

Another time, a neighbor and Mrs. Guinther got into an argument about a plant with five leaves that he claimed was marijuana.

"Mother kept telling him he was wrong, that it was a weed called cinquefoil," said Treesh. "And she was right."

It didn't matter if it was a question pertaining to weeds, trees, plants, animals or the Bible, Mrs. Guinther knew the answer, according to her daughter.

While attending college to become a teacher, Mrs. Guinther worked summers at Curtiss-Wright Aircraft factory.

"She wasn't quite Rosie the Riveter, but she was working at that time (World War II) and did contribute to the war effort," Treesh said.

Mrs. Guinther's faith was important to her. She was a member of Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses in Auburn, studied the Bible with a passion and was an active member of the church's Bible study group.

Besides her husband, Mrs. Guinther also lost two children to death, a son, Paul Wendel Guinther, and a daughter, Martha Ann Guinther, and was preceded in death by five of her brothers and one sister.

Survivors, besides her son and daughter and their spouses, include a brother, Hal Meurer of Long Branch, N.J, five grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

## Stacy Music

CHURUBUSCO — Stacy A. Music, 43, died Friday, Feb. 9, 2007, in Lutheran Hospital, Fort Wayne.

Born on Nov. 24, 1963, in Fort Wayne he was the son of Guy Edward and Rita May (Sage) Music. His father survives.

Mr. Music

He lived all his life in the Fort Wayne and Churubusco area, and served in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Mr. Music graduated from Churubusco High School, and worked at the former Broadview Lumber Company in Auburn.

The avid Fort Wayne Komets fan was a member of the fan clubs and collected many Komet hockey memorabilia.

Surviving, in addition to his father, are his grandmother, Marie M. Sage who he lived with, and several cousins.

His mother preceded him in death.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Tuesday at Sheets and Childs Funeral Home, Churubusco, with burial to follow in Riverview Cemetery in rural Allen County.

There is no calling.

Memorials may be directed to the Whitley County Heart Association. Envelopes will be available at the funeral home.

Condolences may be sent online to sympathy@sheetsandchilds.net.

## Audrey Bodiker

ANGOLA — One-day-old Audrey M. Bodiker died Thursday, Feb. 8, 2007, in Lutheran Hospital, Fort Wayne.

She was born on Feb. 7, 2007, in Fort Wayne.

Surviving are her parents, Brian and Kerrie (Stamper) Bodiker of Angola; two brothers, Joshua and Justin Bodiker of Angola; a twin sister, Alicia Bodiker of Angola; fraternal grandparents Forrest and Marilyn Bodiker of Waterloo; maternal grandparents Peggy Stamper of Hamilton and Art Hall of Angola; and great-grandfathers Bud Lepley of Ashley and Ralph Baker of Hamilton.

Graveside services will be at 1 p.m. Monday at South Scott Cemetery, Angola, with Rev. Dave Cole officiating.

There is no calling.

Memorials are to the family.

Condolences may be sent online to www.beamsfuneralhome.com.

Beams Funeral Home, Fremont, is in charge of arrangements.

## Nellie Stiver

FORT WAYNE — Nellie B. Stiver, 95, of Fort Wayne, died Sunday, Feb. 11, 2007, at Regency Place.

She was born March 24, 1991, in Charloe, Ohio.

She had worked at General Electric, International Harvester, L.S. Ayres. Tepe's and Indiana Marine Products before retiring in 1995.

She was an excellent seamstress and enjoyed sewing blankets at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Harlan and for Project Linus. She also enjoyed cooking for others.

She was a 55-year member of Spencerville Chapter 386 of the Order of Eastern Star, a past member of Spencerville United Methodist Church and a current member of Taylor Chapel United Methodist Church and its United Methodist Women.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Norman and Joyce Weible of Fort Wayne; a grandson and his wife, Kevin and Patti Weible of Fort Wayne; a granddaughter and her husband, Lesa and Ryan Estes of Angola; three great-grandchildren; a stepson and his wife, Stephen and Peggy Stiver of New Haven; a stepdaughter and her husband, Dorothy and Rufus Dominguez of Pensacola, Fla.; 12 stepgrandchildren and several stepgreat-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husbands, Vaughn Weible, Buck Allen and Harold Stiver; a stepdaughter, Imogene Mayer; seven brothers and three sisters.

Services will be Wednesday at 10 a.m. at Taylor Chapel United Methodist Church, 10145 Maysville Road. Dr. Bill Farmer will officiate. Burial will be in White City Cemetery at Spencerville.

Calling will be Tuesday from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. at D.O. McComb & Sons Lakeside Park Funeral Home, 1140 Lake Ave., and Wednesday from 9-10 a.m. at the church. An Eastern Star service will begin at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the funeral home.

Memorials are to Project Linus or Taylor Chapel United Methodist Church.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** *is being reprinted to include calling hours.*

## Stacy Music

CHURUBUSCO — Stacy A. Music, 43, of Churubusco died unexpectedly Friday, Feb. 9, 2007, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

**Mr. Music**

Mr. Music was a graduate of Churubusco High School and had lived in the Churubusco and Fort Wayne areas. He currently made his home with his grandmother, Marie M. Sage.

He had been employed at the former Broadview Lumber Co. in Auburn.

Mr. Music was an avid Komet hockey team fan, member of the Komet fan club and collected Komet memorabilia.

He was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran.

He was born Nov. 24, 1963, in Fort Wayne to Guy Edward and Rita May (Sage) Music.

He is also survived by several cousins.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Tuesday at Sheets & Childs Funeral Home in Churubusco. Burial will be in Riverview Cemetery in Allen County.

Calling will be after 11 a.m. Tuesday until the hour of the service.

Memorials are to Whitley County Heart Association.

Condolences are to sympathy@sheetsandchilds.net.

## Josephine Dicke

AUBURN — Josephine N. "Jo" Dicke, 64, of rural Auburn died Saturday, Feb. 10, 2007, at 6:37 p.m. at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

**Mrs. Dicke**

Mrs. Dicke was a homemaker and had worked for 10 years at the Garrett branch of the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles. She was a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Auburn.

She was born July 11, 1942, in Fort Wayne to Darwin E. and Eva M. (Brackney) Cobb. They preceded her in death.

On Feb. 14, 1976, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church she married Ronald W. Dicke. He survives.

Also surviving are five sons and two daughters-in-law, Jim H. Johnston Jr. of Grand Rapids, Mich., Todd A. Dicke of Huntertown, Rick A. and Michelle Johnston of Garrett, Troy W. and Marcia Dicke of Arcola, and R. Scott Dicke of Auburn; a daughter and son-in-law, Jennifer L. and Paul Warfield of Garrett; a brother, Darwin E. Cobb of Auburn; two sisters, Barbara Goldsmith of Butler and Dorothy Wolfe of Fort Wayne; and 11 grandchildren.

Services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Auburn, with Pastor Stephen K. Kummernuss and the Rev. William Haworth officiating.

Calling will be Tuesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, and Wednesday from 10-11 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to St. Martin's Healthcare the DeKalb County Humane Shelter or Youth For Christ.

To sign a guest book or send condolences, visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

## Deloris 'Dee' Bloom

ALTONA — Deloris "Dee" M. Bloom, 79, of Altona, died Sunday, Feb. 11, 2007, in Garrett.

Mrs. Bloom

She will be remembered by her family as a special full-time wife, mother and grandmother.

She was born May 9, 1927, in Huntertown to John and LaVern (Yates) Hippenhammer. They preceded her in death.

She married Robert "Bob" L. Bloom on April 26, 1947, in Altona. He died July 7, 2004.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Rebeca and Hubert Ashcraft of Fort Wayne; a son and his companion, Rick L. Bloom and Trudi Aller of Rome City; four grandchildren, Kristopher Bloom and his wife, Jamie, of Columbia City, Patrick Bloom and his fiancee, Stephanie Keller, of Muncie, Hubie Ashcraft of Fort Wayne and Carly Ashcraft of Fort Wayne; and a great-grandson, Carter Robert Bloom of Columbia City.

She was preceded in death by a daughter, Amanda L. Bloom, a granddaughter, Nikki Dee, and four sisters.

Services will be Thursday at noon at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, with the Rev. Richard Pickard officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery of Garrett.

Calling will be Wednesday from 4-7 p.m. and Thursday from 11 a.m.-noon at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Riley Hospital for Children at Indianapolis.

To sign the guest book or send a condolence, visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

## Raymond Miller

GRABILL — Raymond "Ray" Eugene Miller, 76, of Grabill, died Saturday morning, Feb. 10. 2007, at his home.

Mr. Miller owned and operated several Jiffy Car Washes and coin-operated laundries in the area. He was a member of Crossview Church in Grabill, a deputy town marshal of Grabill, a past president of the Grabill Town Board and was the Grabill fire chief for more than 20 years.

He was born Jan. 17, 1931, in Allen County to Eli E. and Sue (Bontrager) Miller. They preceded him in death.

He married Patsy Ann Welty on March 24, 1951, in Jeffersonville, and she survives.

Also surviving are four sons, Gary Alan Miller of Lawtey, Fla., Bruce Eugene Miller of Boulder, Colo., Alvin Jay Miller of San Jose, Calif., and David Lee Miller of Spencerville; a daughter, Amy Ruth Miller-Douissard of Singapore; five grandchildren; and a sister, Amanda Eicher of Leo.

He was preceded in death by two sisters, Viola Delagrange and Wilma Mae Miller.

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. at Crossview Church in Grabill, with Pastor Hal Lehman officiating.

Calling will be Thursday from 2-4 and 6-9 p.m. at the church.

Memorials are to Crossview Church, 13313 Indiana St., Grabill, IN 46741.

Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home of Spencerville is handling arrangements.

## Wanda Wray

AUBURN — Wanda A. Wray, 90, of Auburn died Monday, Feb. 12, 2007, at Wesley Healthcare in Auburn.

Mrs. Wray

She was a homemaker for most of her life, but also taught preschool. She had been a resident at Smith Farms Manor Retirement Community for the past six years.

She was born Feb. 9, 1917, in Chicago to Franklin and Ruth (Long) Albright.

Her husband, William Ringston, preceded her in death.

Surviving are two daughters, Mary Ann Black of Klamath Falls, Ore., and Diana Hermansen of Great Bend, Kan.; eight grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; and her caretakers, Danny and Crystal Hollinger of Garrett.

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. in Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett. Private burial will follow in Cedar Creek Cemetery of rural Garrett.

Calling will be from 10-11 a.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the First Baptist Church in Garrett.

To sign the guest book or send a condolence, visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org

## Carolyn Faurote

ANGOLA — Carolyn Jean Faurote, 80, of Angola died Sunday, Feb. 11, 2007, at Lutheran Hospital, Fort Wayne.

She was a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Waterloo and the Rosary Solidarity of St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in Angola.

Mrs. Faurote was born March 2, 1926, in Philadelphia to John and Caroline (Baffoni) Pede. She had lived in Angola for 29 years, coming from Fort Wayne.

She worked at Dana Corp. in Fort Wayne for 30 years.

She was married to Joseph Faurote in Angola on June 30, 1945. He survives.

Also surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Jeanne C. and Dennis Thompson of Fort Wayne; two brothers, Wallace Pede of Springfield, Va. and Jack Pede of Royersford, Pa.; two grandchildren; a grandson-in-law, Lori and Dan Caruso and Dennis Thompson Jr.; and four great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents and six brothers and sisters.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at St. Michael's Catholic Church with the Rev. David Carkenord officiating. Calling will be Friday from 10 to 11 a.m. at the church.

Burial will be in St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery, Waterloo.

Memorials are to the American Heart Association.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** *is being reprinted with new information about services and surving relatives.*

## Michael Shanyfelt

NORFOLK, Va. — Michael Shanyfelt, 24, died Thursday, Feb. 8, 2007, at Norfolk Naval Base in Norfolk, Va.

He joined the U.S. Navy after graduating from high school and had been stationed in Norfolk.

He was born Oct. 7, 1982, in Cleveland, Ohio.

Mr. Shanyfelt

Surviving are his father and stepmother, Daniel and Sandra Shanyfelt of Garrett; a brother, Alan Shanyfelt of Garrett; a stepsister, Shera Collins of Garrett; two stepbrothers, Chester O. Montgomery and Mathew Montgomery, both of Garrett; his grandparents, Henry and Anna Shanyfelt of Auburn and Sylvia Hoy of Cleveland; his stepgrandparents, Mossie Jennings of Columbus, Ohio, and Ed Jennings, also of Columbus, Ohio; three uncles and an aunt, Herbert Shanyfelt of Cleveland, Mark and Lori Shanyfelt of Auburn and Brian Shanyfelt of Auburn; and many cousins, including Michelle Hensley of Cleveland and Gary Sexton of Tennessee.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Eva Gump, who died in June 2003.

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery.

Calling will be Thursday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

## Corey Zimmerman

HARLAN — Corey Jason Zimmerman, 31, of Harlan died Sunday, Feb. 11, 2007.

Mr. Zimmerman was born March 23, 1975, in Auburn. He was employed at Deister Machine.

Surviving are his father and stepmother, John and Helen Zimmerman of Auburn; his mother and stepfather, Linda K. and Jack Mull of Harlan; three brothers and a sister-in-law, Michael and Renee Conner of Woodburn, Matthew Knapp of Clinton Township, Mich., and Jon Tyler Zimmerman of Auburn; and a grandmother, Marcella Beverly of Hicksville, Ohio.

Services will be Friday at 7 p.m. in Hockemeyer Funeral Home, 17629 S.R. 37, Harlan.

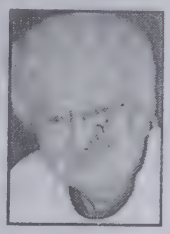
Calling will be Friday from 4-7 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family.

## Marcia Neukom

GARRETT — Marcia M. Neukom, 80, of Garrett died Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2007, at 11 a.m. at Hospice Home of Northeast Indiana.

Mrs. Neukom worked as an executive secretary and office manager at ITT-Fort Wayne for 28 years, retiring in 1987. She was a member of the Garrett United Methodist Church.


Mrs. Neukom

She was born Jan. 2, 1927, in Adams County to Oliver and Lena P. (Bridgewater) Schnepp.

She married Glenn W. Neukom Sr. on Jan. 25, 1948, in Decatur. He survives in Garrett.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, G. Wayne Neukom Jr. and Dianna Neukom of Fort Wayne; a son-in-law, Jack Shulz of Fremont; a brother, Lewis Schnepp of Fremont; six grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, a daughter, Marilynn Shulz, and two brothers, Billy and Kenneth Schnepp.

Services will be Saturday at noon in the Garrett United Methodist Church. Dr. Scott Shoaff will officiate. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery of Garrett.

Calling will be Saturday from 10 a.m.-noon at the church.

Memorials are to the church or to Hospice Home of Northeast Indiana.

Thomas Funeral Home of Garrett is handling arrangements.

To sign an online guest book or send a condolence, visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** is *being reprinted with new dates for services and calling.*

## Nellie Stiver

FORT WAYNE — Nellie B. Stiver, 95, of Fort Wayne died Sunday, Feb. 11, 2007, at Regency Place.

She was born March 24, 1991, in Charloe, Ohio.

She had worked at General Electric, International Harvester, L.S. Ayres. Tepe's and Indiana Marine Products before retiring in 1995.

She was an excellent seamstress and enjoyed sewing blankets at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Harlan and for Project Linus. She also enjoyed cooking for others.

She was a 55-year member of Spencerville Chapter 386 of the Order of Eastern Star, a past member of Spencerville United Methodist Church and a current member of Taylor Chapel United Methodist Church and its United Methodist Women.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Norman and Joyce Weible of Fort Wayne; a grandson and his wife, Kevin and Patti Weible of Fort Wayne; a granddaughter and her husband, Lesa and Ryan Estes of Angola; three great-grandchildren; a stepson and his wife, Stephen and Peggy Stiver of New Haven; a stepdaughter and her husband, Dorothy and Rufus Dominguez of Pensacola, Fla.; 12 stepgrandchildren; and several stepgreat-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husbands, Vaughn Weible, Buck Allen and Harold Stiver; a stepdaughter, Imogene Mayer; seven brothers and three sisters.

Services will be Friday at 10 a.m. at Taylor Chapel United Methodist Church, 10145 Maysville Road. Dr. Bill Farmer will officiate. Burial will be in White City Cemetery at Spencerville.

Calling will be Thursday from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. at D.O. McComb & Sons Lakeside Park Funeral Home, 1140 Lake Ave., and Friday from 9-10 a.m. at the church. An Eastern Star service will begin at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the funeral home.

Memorials are to Project Linus or Taylor Chapel United Methodist Church.

## Earl Hamilton Sr.

ST. JOE — Earl R. Hamilton Sr., 88, died Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2007. at Hickory Creek at Hicksville, Ohio.

Mr. Hamilton was a World War II veteran, serving in the U.S. Army, 161st Combat Engineers. He was awarded four Bronze Stars for his service in Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes and Rhineland. He was a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

He was employed at International Harvester in Fort Wayne for 30 years and at Frazer Farm Equipment in Auburn.

He was born Jan. 18, 1919, in Hettie, W.Va., the son of James A. and Martha (Boggs) Hamilton.

He married Leila Gruber on April 4, 1943. She survives.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Earl and Cheryl Hamilton of Hicksville; two grandchildren and their spouses, Jeff and Jennifer Hamilton of Waterloo and Chantelle and Jeff DeFrain of Leo; five great-grandchildren; and a sister, Virginia Nickleson Prince of Bridgeport, W.Va.

He was preceded in death by his parents and three brothers.

Services will be Saturday at 10 a.m. in Smith & Brown Funeral Home, 706 N. Main St., Hicksville. Pastor Jerry Lewis of Grace United Methodist Church will officiate. Burial will be at Scipio Cemetery near Harlan with military honors.

Calling will be Friday from 2-4 and 6–8 p.m. and Saturday from 9-10 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Grace United Methodist Church or the DeKalb County Humane Shelter.

## Herbert Kandel

AUBURN — Herbert A. Kandel, 83, of Auburn died Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2007, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mr. Kandel

Mr. Kandel was an insurance agent and broker with Equitable Life Assurance Co. for 23 years, retiring in 1998.

A World War II veteran, he served in the U.S. Army Air Corps.

He was a member of American Legion Post 97 in Auburn and the Auburn Rotary Club. He attended St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Auburn.

He was born Nov. 17, 1923, in Butler. His parents, Howard J. Kandel and Helen (Smurr) Kandel Hose, preceded him in death.

On Nov. 30, 1946, in Waterloo, he married Ethel M. Ackerman. She died Jan. 9, 2001.

Surviving are two daughters and a son-in-law, Karen Premer of Auburn and Linda and Rick SanPietro of Fort Wayne; a brother and sister-in-law, George and Gweneth Kandel of Butler; a sister, Lila Jean McConnel of West Virginia; two grandchildren, Stacy Sparkman and Brady Sparkman; and one great-granddaughter, Starr Sparkman.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Kathryn Hall.

Services will be Monday at 11 a.m. in Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Burial will be in Butler Cemetery.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-6 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to a charity of the donor's choice.

## Kevin Shipe

SPENCERVILLE — Kevin R. Shipe, 41, of Spencerville, died Thursday morning, Feb. 15, 2007, at his home.

Mr. Shipe worked as a heavy equipment mechanic for Brooks Construction for several years and currently was working for Pyramid Excavating in Auburn.

Mr. Shipe

He was a member of Hopewell United Brethren Church. He was a former Auburn Police reserve officer and was a member of Local 150 Midwestern Operating Engineers.

He was born June 29, 1965, in Fort Wayne to Don and Jan (Duff) Shipe. They survive in Fort Wayne.

He married Monica Sawyer on June 28, 1986, at St. Joseph United Methodist Church in Fort Wayne. She survives in Spencerville.

Also surviving are two sons, Dustan Shipe of Fort Wayne and Dexter Shipe of Spencerville; two grandchildren, Tyler Patrick Shipe and Kayleigh Ann Shipe, both of Fort Wayne; a brother and sister-in-law, Brad and Karen Shipe of Union, Ky.; and two sisters and a brother-in-law, Melanie and Mark Schweyer of Fort Wayne and Karin Ramey of Lexington, Ky.

Services will be Monday at 10 a.m. in Hopewell United Brethren Church, 6800 C.R. 35, Auburn, with Pastor John Erwin officiating. Burial will be in Covington Memorial Gardens at Fort Wayne.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the church.

Memorials are to the Hopewell United Brethren Church Building Fund, 6800 C.R. 35, Auburn, IN 46706.

Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home of Spencerville is handing arrangements.

## Harlan Huffman

AUBURN — Harlan C. Huffman, 69, of Auburn died Friday, Feb. 16, 2007, at Parkview Hospital, Fort Wayne.

Mr. Huffman was a veteran of the Army Medical Corp. He worked as a supervising medical technologist at DeKalb Memorial Hospital for 14 years and retired in 2004. He was a member of the Cedar Creek Antique Tractor Club and attended Day Spring Community Church, Auburn.

Mr. Huffman was born June 15, 1937, in Steuben County to Russell and Elsie (Lemmon) Huffman. They preceded him in death.

He married Wendy (Broadwater) Huffman on May 25, 1978, in Auburn. She survives.

Also surviving are two sons, Brett Huffman of Avilla and Adam Huffman of Kendallville; two daughters, Carmen Fleck of Rome City and Heide Mosier of Auburn; one brother, Lloyd Huffman; and four grandchildren, Lisa, Ethan, Gavin and Olivia.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Barton Huffman.

Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Weicht Funeral Home, 207 N. West St., Angola. Pastor Jim Hulbert will officiate.

Calling will be from noon to 2 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be made to the donor's choice.

## Rebecca Cool

HAMILTON — Rebecca A. Cool, 55, of Hamilton, died Friday, Feb. 16, 2007, in Butler.

Mrs. Cool was a homemaker. She was a member of the Hamilton Fish and Game Club and the Fraternal Order of Eagles in Butler. She enjoyed spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren. She also enjoyed playing bingo and cards.

She was born Aug. 21, 1951, in Hicksville, Ohio, to Max and Lois (Smith) Fetzer. Her father preceded her in death, and her mother survives in Hamilton.

She married Thomas Cool on Sept. 9, 1968, in Pleasant Lake, and he survives.

Also surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Rodney and Alicia Cool and Toby and Kim Cool, all of Hamilton; four grandchildren, Dustin Cool, Ryan Cool, Myileigh Cool and Adam Cool; a sister and brother-in-law, Marsha and Charles Peter of Hicksville; and a brother, Max Fetzer Jr. of Hamilton.

She was preceded in death by a sister, Cathie Baker, and a grandmother, Olive Snyder.

Services will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. at the Hamilton United Methodist Church with Jeff Alexander officiating. Burial will be in Eddy Cemetery at Hamilton.

Calling will be Monday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo.

Memorials are to the American Heart Association.

# Parker's life marked by family, friends, music

BY AMY OBERLIN
amyo@kpcnews.net

*"I shed a tear 'cause I'm missing you*
*I'm still all right to smile*
*Girl, I think about you every day now*
*Was a time when I wasn't sure*
*but you set my mind at ease*
*There is no doubt*
*You're in my heart now ..."*

The microphone cut in and out as Austen Brauker spoke during Alan Parker's memorial service the morning of Feb. 10 at H.E. Johnson and Sons Funeral Home in Angola.

While Brauker's words could be heard in the hushed funeral parlor, people in adjoining lobbies got a few blasts of audio:

"I am passed."

"Love your family and friends."

These words could have come from Alan himself, whose short life was marked by a love of adventure and people. Family and friends, happiness and laughter were the focus of Alan's life.

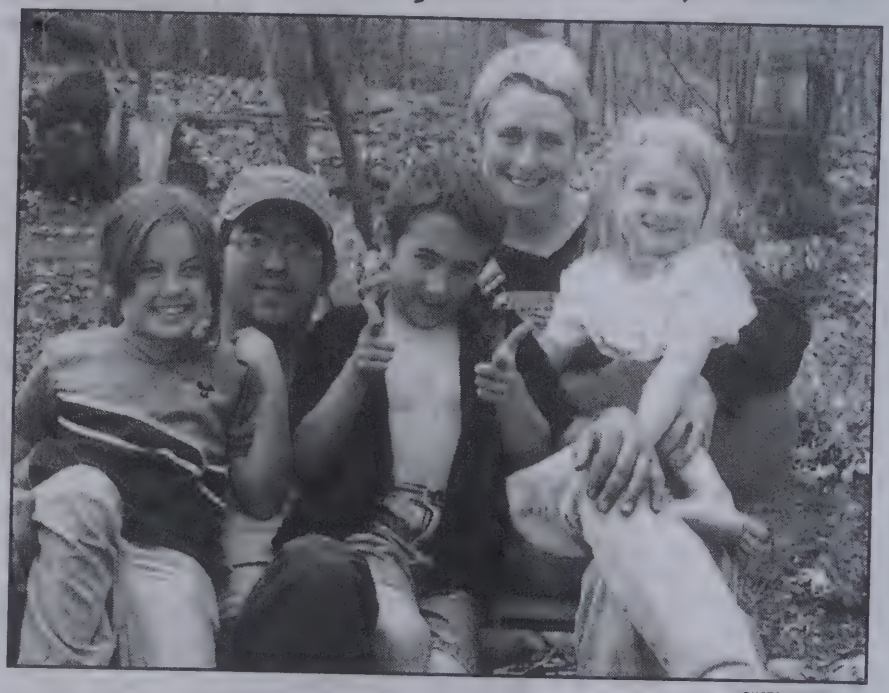


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Ceara Deming, Alan Parker, Jake Parker, Vicki Parker and Samara Parker are shown enjoying time together a few years ago.**

Alan, 36, succumbed to primary brain cancer on Feb. 6, after a five-year battle. He died at home surrounded by his family, which includes wife Vicki and children Ceara, 16, Jacob, 15, and Samara, 11. Alan's parents are Hal and Joy Parker, who operate Parker Heating and Air Conditioning, where Alan worked.

"He thoroughly enjoyed his work, which he often expressed by a characteristic whistling as he performed his job," his wife, Vicki, wrote in his printed obituary.

Alan's upbeat attitude always showed. He had an easy smile and laugh. He loved puns, and was always ready to help his friends and neighbors.

"He was always there for us," said Vicki's mother, Jan Goes, whose husband is Bob Goes Sr. "He would have done anything for anybody any time."

Their son, Bob, calls Alan a brother. Alan did not like the phrase "brother-in-law," Bob said, "because he treated every member as immediate family." Alan's brother, Don, lives in Indianapolis with his wife, Gwen, and children Drew and Morgan.

"He prized his family and was proud to be a husband and father," wrote Vicki.

"He enjoyed playing and listening to music, spending time with his family and friends, carousing with his dogs, and laughing, especially around a campfire."

Alan and Vicki attended Angola High School, graduating in 1988. They were married in an intimate ceremony on June 6, 1991, in Fremont. The couple's family dog, Gretchen, attended the marriage and their brothers stood up for them.

"The greatest thing about Vicki and Alan was they loved each other. They really, truly loved each other," said Pam Potts of Fremont. "You always felt good being around Alan."

Sandy Austin of Angola agreed. "He was the most positive person I ever encountered," she said.

Friends speak of Alan's easy-going demeanor and his kindness.

"He's been my inspiration," said Bob Jr. "If I could be more like any one person as I try to become a better person, being more like Alan gets me closer to that goal."

Alan carried a "general attitude of kindness and compassion," Bob said.

"If you knew Alan, you loved him," said Jan. "If you didn't love him, you didn't know him."

At his funeral, "Patience" by Guns N' Roses and two Grateful Dead songs — "The Wheel" and "They Love Each Other" — were played. All speak of making the most of life and the unfathomable depths of love.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** *is being republished to correct errors.*

## Harlan Huffman

AUBURN — Harlan C. Huffman, 69, of Auburn died Thursday, Feb. 15, 2007, at Parkview Hospital, Fort Wayne.

Mr. Huffman was a veteran of the Army Medical Corp. He worked as a supervising medical technologist at DeKalb Memorial Hospital for 14 years and retired in 2004. He was a member of the Cedar Creek Antique Tractor Club and attended Day Spring Community Church, Auburn.

Mr. Huffman was born June 15, 1937, in Steuben County to Russell and Elsie (Lemmon) Huffman. They preceded him in death.

He married Wendy (Broadwater) Huffman on May 25, 1979, in Auburn. She survives.

Also surviving are two sons, Brett Huffman of Avilla and Adam Huffman of Kendallville; two daughters, Carmen Fleck of Rome City and Heide Mosier of Auburn; one brother, Lloyd Huffman; and four grandchildren, Lisa, Ethan, Gavin and Olivia.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Barton Huffman.

Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Weicht Funeral Home, 207 N. West St., Angola. Pastor Jim Hulbert will officiate.

Calling will be from noon to 2 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be made to the donor's choice.

## Donald Delauder

AUBURN — Donald Fay Delauder, 63, of Auburn died Saturday, Feb. 17, 2007, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Delauder was a machinist and UAW union steward at International Harvester for 30 years, retiring in 1998.

He was a member of the National Rifle Association and enjoyed his grandchildren, deer hunting and gardening.

He was born June 12, 1943, in Phillipi, W.Va., to Stanley and Pearl H. (Bryan) Delauder. They preceded him in death.

On March 13, 1965, in Pleasant Lake, he married Nancy Faye Malcolm. She survives.

Also surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Douglas W. and Danielle Delauder of Union, Ky., and Denny Fay Delauder of Wapakoneta, Ohio; two grandsons, Logan and Landon Delauder of Union, Ky.; two granddaughters, Lauren Delauder of Union, Ky. and Natalie Hall of Urbana, Ohio; four brothers and sisters-in-law, Winfield and Ruthann Delauder of Garrett, Randy and Dorothy Delauder, also of Garrett, Andy and Mina Delauder of Auburn, and Denver and Ellen Delauder of West Virginia; and two sisters, Virginia Capiola of West Virginia and LuRay Weaver of Ohio.

A brother, Carl Delauder, and five sisters, Auldeine, Velvadeen, Oleda and Myrtle Delauder and Vera Poling, preceded him in death.

Services will be Thursday at 11 a.m. in Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, with Pastor David Misner officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery of Garrett.

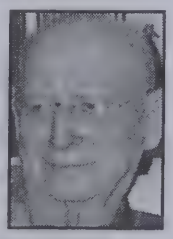
Calling will be Wednesday from 4-8 p.m. and Thursday from 10-11 a.m. in the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society.

To sign an online guest book or send a condolence, visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

## Merrill Miller

FORT WAYNE — Merrill A. Miller, 85, of Fort Wayne, formerly of Garrett and North Manchester, died Saturday, Feb. 17, 2007, at 9:45 a.m. at Parkview North Hospital in Fort Wayne.


Mr. Miller

Mr. Miller worked as a welder at Fruehauf Trucking in Fort Wayne for 31 years, retiring in 1983.

He was a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Monroeville, American Legion Post 47 in Fort Wayne and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He was a U.S. Army Air Corps veteran of World War II.

He was born Nov. 3, 1921, in Silver Lake to Glen A. and Ruth A. (Deaton) Miller. His parents preceded him in death.

His first wife, Patricia H. (McClish) Miller, and his second wife, Winifred Shafer Miller, also preceded him in death.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Randy and Kelly Miller of Indianapolis and David and Carol Miller of Crossville, Tenn.; two daughters and a son-in-law, Vicki and Eric Hodge and Karen Miller Toohill, all of Fort Wayne; a special companion, Rosemary Cooper of Leo-Cedarville; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Kenneth and Kathy Miller of Fort Wayne, and Myron and Jean Miller of North Manchester; a sister and brother-in-law, Colleen and Jim Hayes of South Whitley; 10 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Services will be Tuesday at 6 p.m. in Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, with Gary Cooper officiating. Military honors will follow at 6:30 p.m.

Calling will be Tuesday from 4-6 p.m. in the funeral home.

Memorials are to Freedom Alliance Scholarship Fund, which honors the sons and daughters of America's fallen heroes.

To sign an online guest book or send a condolence, visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

## Charles Elson

INDIANAPOLIS — Charles Robert "Bob" Elson, 91, died Saturday, Feb. 17, 2007, in Speedway.

Mr. Elson was born Feb. 11, 1916, in Garrett. He graduated from Purdue University with a degree in civil engineering. During World War II, he worked for Kaiser Shipbuilding in the district office in Oakland, Calif. He retired in 1981.

He was a longtime member of Speedway Christian Church and the Westward Ho Camping Club. He enjoyed painting, music and photography and sang in a choir for many years.

Surviving are his wife, Ann; a son, Tom; a daughter-in-law, Carol, a granddaughter and her husband, Lorie and Josh Scott; a great-granddaughter, Erica Scott; and a sister, Sarah Beyer and her family.

A private graveside service took place at Flanner and Buchanan Funeral Center, 2706 Kessler Blvd., West Drive, Indianapolis.

A memorial service will be Thursday at 11 a.m. at Speedway Christian Church.

Calling will be Thursday from 10-11 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to a charity of the donor's choice or to Speedway Christian Church.

## Frances Belyea

FORT WAYNE — Frances Ellen Culbertson Belyea, 76, died Saturday, Feb. 17, 2007, at Heritage Park Health Care Center in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Belyea was a tester with Magnavox for 25 years, retiring in 1993. She was a member of Faith Baptist Church and Widows to Widows.

She was born Aug. 23, 1930, in Stryker, Ohio, to Clyde S. and Mary M. (Roth) Cox.

Surviving are her husband, Donald M. Belyea of Bradenton, Fla.; two daughters, Nancy L. Stopher of Fort Wayne and Margaret A. Gordon of Indianapolis; a brother, Clyde S. Cox Jr. of Auburn; a sister, Donelda M. Hook of Georgia; two grandchildren and three stepgrandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her first husband, Leslie L. Culbertson; one son, Michael A.; two sisters, Vivian Chick and Wynona Converse and triplet infant brothers.

Services will be Wednesday at 2 p.m. in D.O. McComb & Sons Maplewood Park Funeral Home, 4017 Maplecrest Road, Fort Wayne, with the Rev. Dennis Roberts officiating. Burial will be in Covington Memorial Gardens at Fort Wayne.

Calling will be today from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. and Wednesday from 1:30-2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Faith Baptist Church or Cancer Services of Allen County.

## Logan Peterson

ALBION — Logan Mitchell Peterson, 7, died Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2007, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Logan Peterson

Logan had received a heart transplant when he was 3 weeks old.

He was a kindergarten student at Albion Elementary School. He was known to have a wonderful imagination, loved Mickey Mouse and wanted to be a firefighter just like his father.

Logan was born Jan. 26, 2000, at Indiana University Medical Center in Indianapolis.

Surviving are his father, Bryan Peterson of Albion; his mother and stepfather, Amanda (Barclay) and Mike Howard of Albion; two sisters, Allyssa and Courtney Peterson, both at home; a brother, Maverick Peterson, at home; a stepbrother, Drew Howard of Garrett; a stepsister, Devin Howard of Garrett; paternal grandother, Mary Peterson of Albion; maternal grandparents, Steve and Arlinda Barclay of Flippin, Ark.; stepgrandparents, Ronnie and Brenda Howard of Plant City, Fla., Linda and PeeWee Wilson of Albion, Emmet Bachellor of Albion and Neal Barclay of Monroeville; a special friend, Jake Schott of Albion; and many aunts and uncles.

He was preceded in death by his paternal grandfather, Chuck Peterson in January 2000.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Trinity United Methodist Church in Albion with the Rev. Dr. Dan Barker officiating. Burial will be in Sweet Cemetery.

Calling will be from 1-7 p.m. Friday at Brazzell Funeral Home, Albion Chapel, and one hour prior to services Saturday at the church.

Memorials are to Trinity United Methodist Church, Riley Children's Hospital Transplant Program or to the family.

## Ila Coburn

ST. JOE — Ila L. Coburn, 92, of St. Joe died Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2007, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mrs. Coburn was a housewife. She owned and operated Northside Doll Hospital in St. Joe.

She was born July 30, 1914, in Ohio to William and Hazel (Henley) Monroe. They preceded her in death.

She married Victor G. Coburn on Nov. 4, 1933, in DeKalb County. He died in 1977.

Surviving are two sons, William G. Coburn of St. Joe and Calvin G. Coburn of Fayetteville, N.C.; two daughters, Leatrice J. Lothamer of New Haven and Leah J. Isham of Garrett; 16 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandson.

She was preceded in death by a great-grandchild and a brother, Frank Monroe.

Services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. in Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home, Spencerville, with Merle Holden officiating. Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery at St. Joe.

Calling will be Friday from 2-6 p.m. and Saturday from 10-11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Unit of the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 722, Auburn, IN 46706.

## Marion Rhoads

HOWE — Marion M. "Dusty" Rhoads, 88, of Howe died at 5:25 a.m. Monday, Feb. 19, 2007, at Life Care Center of LaGrange.

Mr. Rhoads

Mr. Rhoads had been a welder most of his life. He also owned and operated Rhoads Chainsaw Sales and Service.

He was born April 16, 1919, in Butler to Scott and Ethel (Love) Rhoads. He married Betty Jean Wolfe in 1941 in Kentucky. She preceded him in death.

Surviving are his companion, Joan Evilsizor; three sons and two daughters-in-law, Keith and Claireann Rhoads of Edgerton, Ohio, Phil Rhoads of Galesburg, Mich., and Curtis and Sandy Rhoads of Hudson; two daughters, Barbara and Dan McCoy and Rachel and Mel Bontrager, all of Howe; 10 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

He was also preceded in death by two brothers and three sisters.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Carney-Frost Funeral Home in LaGrange with Pastor Dale Gerig of Jamestown Church officiating. Burial will be in Greenlawn Cemetery at Orland.

Calling will be from 3-8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Condolences may be sent online to carneyfrost@earthlink.net.

## Bobby Albright

WATERLOO — Bobby L. "BL" Albright, 81, of Waterloo died Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2007, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mr. Albright

A lifelong DeKalb County resident, he was born to Howard "Doc" and Jessie Lower Albright on May 28, 1925.

He graduated from Waterloo High School in 1943 and joined the Army. As a member of the 24th Division, he served his country in New Guinea, the Philippines, Leyte and the Japanese mainland. He was a decorated veteran, receiving the Bronze Star for Heroic Achievement, the Victory Medal and a Purple Heart for wounds received in action.

On June 5, 1948, he married Vereda Boman, and they moved to Bloomington, where Mr. Albright earned a business degree from Indiana University.

Returning to Waterloo, Mr. Albright and his father-in-law formed Boman and Albright, a fuel oil distributorship. The family business expanded into Hoosier Propane, L&L Leasing, Domex Inc., DeKalb Oil and Sulpher Springs Agra.

Mr. Albright was a quiet community volunteer, starting as a volunteer firefighter, Pony League coach, Boy Scout leader and member of the Lions Club, the Masonic Temple, Knights of Pythias, Waterloo Veterans of Foreign Wars and DeKalb Disabled Veterans. He also served on the DeKalb County Election Board and as president of the Waterloo Grant Township Library Board and was the social concerns chair of the Waterloo United Methodist Church.

Mr. Albright was one of a small group of pec[illegible] .10 built and maintained the Waterloo Little League field and association, where generations of children have participated in sports. In later years, he became more of a community activist, supporting causes through debate and letters to the editor.

Mr. Albright taught his five children, five grandchildren, nieces and nephews and anyone who chose to become part of the Albright family to become Chicago Cubs and Indiana University fans, politically aware liberal Democrats, patriotic, respectful of the environment, how to fish and vote, and the location of good restaurants. He excelled in baking pies and fruitcakes, making sauerkraut, cooking breakfast and frying fresh fish.

Surviving are his wife of 58 years, Vereda; three sons and daughters-in-law, Brian and Sarah Albright of Hamilton, Lee and Karen Albright of Fort Wayne and Adam and Tammy Albright of Columbus, Ohio; two daughters and a son-in-law, Joni Albright and Edward Lutz of Indianapolis and Ellen Meyer of Auburn; and five grandchildren, Theodore Lutz, Clark Albright, Jessica Albright, Audrey Albright and Madeline Albright.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Jack Albright.

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. in the Waterloo United Methodist Church. The Rev. Rex Charles will officiate. Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery.

Calling will be Thursday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, and Friday from 10-11 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to the Waterloo Grant Township Public Library, Waterloo United Methodist Church or Waterloo Athletic Association.

## Jannette Francies

AUBURN — Jannette L. Francies, 71, of Auburn died Saturday, Feb. 17, 2007, at Life Care Center of LaGrange.

Mrs. Francies worked in the video department at Scott's Food Store in Auburn. She also had worked as a clerk at General Electric in Fort Wayne and at Cooper Tire and Rubber Co. in Auburn.

She was a member of Zion 16 Lutheran Church in rural Garrett.

She was born Oct. 7, 1935, in Auburn to Lawrence and Evelyn R. (Whitacre) Votrie. They preceded her in death.

She married Harry W. Francies on March 20, 1976, in Auburn, and he survives.

Also surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Debra J. and Darold Kessler of Columbia, Tenn., and Pamela J. and Bryan Reynolds of Rome City; a stepson, Harry Francies Jr. of Fort Wayne; four stepdaughters, Connie Smith, Sandra Williams, Lynne Tyson and Rebecca Preston, all of Fort Wayne; a sister, Judy Ann Ford of LaGrange; three grandchildren and their spouses, Mitchell and Kimberly Kessler, Marc and Machelle Kessler and Laura and Roger Holley; and six great-grandchildren, Carly Kessler, Anthony Kessler, Grace Kessler, Andrew Kessler, Emma Holley and Dane Holley.

She was preceded in death by a great-grandchild, Evlyn Kessler.

Services will be Saturday at 2 p.m. in Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Al Black officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery of Garrett.

Calling will be Saturday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Cancer Society.

## Ralph Vires

BUTLER — Ralph R. Vires, 82, of Butler died Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2007, at his home in Butler.

Mr. Vires worked as a metal handler at Bohn Aluminum for 23 years, retiring in 1987. He attended the Butler Church of the Nazarene. He was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War.

He was born Dec. 19, 1924, in Jackson, Ky., to Price and Nannie Lou (McIntosh) Vires. They preceded him in death.

He married Plina O'Conner on Dec. 13, 1947, in Jackson, Ky., and she survives in Butler.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Pryce and Susan Vires of Butler; three daughters and sons-in-law, Lucy Faye and Richard DePew of Auburn, Doris Jean and Richard Henkel of Tucson, Ariz., and Joyce Vires Freeman and Robert Freeman of Angola; a brother and sister-in-law, Edward and Lou Vires of Scottsburg; two half brothers, Bobby Riley and Paul Riley, both of Jackson, Ky.; two half sisters, Juanita Rona of Chicago and Carmie Moore of London, Ky.; eight grandchildren, Angela Richards, Norman Dohner Jr., Timothy DePew, Sara DePew, Amanda Pask, Elisha Vires, Heather Vires and Leslie Vires; and five great-grandchildren, Isaiah Chenca, Spencer Pask Baughman, Caleb Sattison, Caiden Sattison and Haunnah DePew.

He was preceded in death by a grandson, Ralph "Edward" Dohner High.

Services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. Paul Patton officiating. Burial will be in the Butler Cemetery.

Calling will be Friday from 5-8 p.m. and Saturday from 9-11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to DeKalb Memorial Hospice.

## Elias Waters

BUTLER — Elias "Fat" Waters, 89, of Butler died Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2007, at the Laurels of DeKalb nursing home, Butler.

Mr. Waters was a lifetime farmer. He was a U.S. Army veteran, serving in World War II.

He was born July 9, 1917, in Allen County to Virgil and Stella (Bell) Waters. They preceded him in death.

He married Beaulah Madden on Aug. 16, 1938. She died Nov. 30, 1989.

Surviving are a sister, Irene Fifer of Hamilton, and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, Russell and Warren Waters.

Graveside services will be Friday at 2 p.m. in Waterloo Cemetery with the Rev. John Boyanowski officiating.

Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, is handling arrangements.

## John Pierce Sr.

BUTLER — John W. Pierce Sr., 87, of Butler, died Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2007, at the Laurels of DeKalb nursing home in Butler.

Born in Indianapolis, Mr. Pierce worked as a technician at Auburn Motor Sales for 40 years, retiring in 1981.

He was a member of Norris Chapel United Methodist Church and American Legion Post 97 in Auburn. He was a U.S. Army veteran, serving from 1942 to 1945. He enjoyed fishing and singing.

Surviving are his wife, E. Marilyn Pierce of Butler; a son and daughter-in-law, John W. Pierce Jr. and Phyllis Pierce of Butler; a daughter and son-in-law, Sharon and Jerry Monarch of Leesburg, Fla.; four grandchildren and their spouses, Stacy Boxberger and her husband, Scott, of Waterloo, Gary Pierce of Butler, Perry Patterson of North Carolina and Shane Patterson and his wife, Loy, of Montana; and two great-grandchildren, Jeffrey and Paige Boxberger of Waterloo.

There will be no services or calling.

McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, is handling arrangements.

## Katherine Dowden

AUBURN — Katherine "Kathy" Louise Dowden, 52, of Auburn, died Wednesday morning, Feb. 21, 2007, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Dowden worked as a cashier at Wal-Mart in Auburn and attended Souls Harbor Assembly of God Church in Auburn.

She was born Feb. 18, 1955, in California to Donald and Louise (Tait) Spears.

She married David Dowden on Dec. 30, 1998, in Auburn, and he survives.

Also surviving are three daughters, her mother, a sister, brother and several grandchildren.

Graveside services will be Monday at 11 a.m. in Riverside Cemetery at St. Joe.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-5 p.m. at Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home in Spencerville.

Memorials are to the family, in care of the funeral home.

## Doris Hatfield

EUSTIS, Fla. — Doris Ellen Hatfield, 86, of Eustis and formerly of Kendallville died Monday, Dec. 25, 2006, in Florida.

Mrs. Hatfield had lived at Bayview Nursing Home the past eight months.

She was born June 6, 1920, in Lakeville to Samuel and Bertha (Krontz) Jenks. She married John T. Hatfield on Aug. 25, 1940, in Butler. He died in 1993.

Survivors include a sister, Pauline Hamman of Morristown, Tenn., and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; three brothers; and six sisters, including Helen Gould of Kendallville.

Memorial services will be held March 3 at 1 p.m. at First Church of God, corner of Oak and Mitchell streets in Kendallville.

Burial will be in Butler Cemetery in Butler.

## Marge Andelin

KENDALLVILLE — Marge Andelin, 80, of Kendallville died Friday, Feb. 23, 2007, at Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla.

Mrs. Andelin

She sold advertising for 17 years for Welcome Wagon in four counties in northeastern Indiana.

She was also the first female life insurance agent for Mutual Security Life Insurance Co. of Fort Wayne and in earlier years worked for The News-Sun.

Mrs. Andelin was a member of Trinity Church United Methodist in Kendallville where she belonged to the Lydia Circle, a charter member and past president of the Northeastern Indiana Life Underwriters, and a Komet hockey fan for 40 years. She enjoyed playing with her Duplicate and Bridge clubs.

On April 1, 1926, she was born in Toronto, Ohio, to Harry Lloyd and Emma Mae (McClain) Pittenger.

She graduated from Toronto High School in 1943 and married Carl Russell Andelin on April 29, 1950. He preceded her in death on Jan. 18, 1994.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Victor and Karen Andelin of Kendallville; a daughter and son-in-law, Anita and Jeff Zerkle of Auburn; a stepdaughter, Arlene Bruner of Cordova, Ala.; four grandchildren, Greg and Rae Andelin of Fishers, Jeff Andelin of Fort Wayne, and Matt and Sarah Jones of Auburn; one great-granddaughter, Taylor Andelin; and a sister, Marian Winn of Largo, Fla.

She was also preceded in death by her parents and two brothers, John and Robert Pittenger.

Services will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. at Trinity Church United Methodist in Kendallville with Pastor Scott Pattison officiating. Burial will be at Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville.

Calling will be Monday from 3 to 8 p.m. at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville and one hour prior to the services on Tuesday at the church.

Preferred memorials may be made to Trinity Church or the Community Food Bank of Kendallville.

Send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com

## Jeffery Brown

AUBURN — Jeffery L. Brown, 51, died Thursday, Feb. 22, 2007, at his home in Auburn.

He was born July 31, 1955, in Auburn to Clyde and Patricia A. (Moran) Brown. His father preceded him in death. His mother survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are two sons, Aaron L. Brown and Casey L. Brown, both of Auburn; a brother, Dennis Brown of Ashley; a sister and brother-in-law, Karen and Don Thacker of Auburn; and his companion, Pam Hancock.

Services will be Monday at 2 p.m. in Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. The Rev. Ralph Diehl will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Monday from noon to 2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family.

## Ruth Gearhart

BUTLER — Ruth N. Gearhart, 78, of Butler, died Thursday, Feb. 22, 2007, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

She was born Aug. 13, 1928, in rural Butler, to George S. and Esther E. (Hose) Cotrill. They preceded her in death.

She married Bert M. Gearhart on Nov. 26, 1948, in Angola. He died June 14, 2004.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Deborah and Roger Petre of Butler; two sons and a daughter-in-law, Marc Gearhart of Butler and Brett and Lora Gearhart of Butler; a sister, Alice Tumbleson of Butler; six grandchildren, Suzanne Petre, Lisa Lilly, Valarie Johnson, Taylor, Whitney and Lexi Gearhart; and five great-grandchildren, Alissa Egly, Jessica Dennison, Tessa Dennison, Derek Lilly and Bryce Johnson.

She was preceded in death by her stepfather, Guy Smith.

Private family services have taken place with Pastor Justin Fisher officiating. Burial was in the Riverview Cemetery at Newville.

Memorials are to Butler Girls Softball, P.O. Box 112, Butler, IN 46721.

Condolences may be left at www.hejohnsonfh.com.

## Vernon Culbertson

AUBURN — Vernon D. Culbertson, 84, of Auburn, died Thursday, Feb. 22, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Culbertson

Born in rural DeKalb County, Mr. Culbertson was the owner of Culbertson Sales and Service for 35 years, retiring in 1991. He was a World War II veteran, serving in the U.S. Air Force.

He was a member of the First United Methodist Church, American Legion Post 97 of Auburn and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6572 of Waterloo.

Mr. Culbertson graduated from Auburn High School in 1940. He enjoyed fishing, gardening and farming and was an avid woodworker.

He married Eleanor Bartles on March 10, 1946, in Auburn. She preceded him in death.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Calvin and Kim Culbertson and Wayne and Jean Culbertson, all of Auburn; five grandchildren, Adam Culbertson of Bloomington, Chase Culbertson of Auburn, Rachel Boles and her husband, Scott, of Fort Wayne, and Taylor and Olivia Culbertson, both of Auburn; two great-grandchildren, Makenna and Carson Boles of Fort Wayne; a brother and sister-in-law, William and Julia Culbertson of Broken Arrow, Okla.; and a sister and brother-in-law, Patricia and David Carmen of Indio, Calif.

He was preceded in death by a grandson, Timothy Andrew Culbertson, and his parents.

Services will be Monday at 2 p.m. in McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, with the Rev. Ted Jansen officiating.

Burial will be in Roselawn Cemetery of Auburn, with military services by American Legion Post 97 and VFW Post 6572.

Calling will be Sunday from 3-7 p.m. and Monday from 1-2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the VFW Home, 3573 S. Waverly Road, Eaton Rapids, Mich., or the American Heart Association.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** is *being reprinted to correct information provided by the fuenral home.*

## Elias Waters

BUTLER — Elias "Fat" Waters, 89, of Butler died Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2007, at Northern Lakes Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Angola.

Mr. Waters was a lifetime farmer. He was a U.S. Army veteran, serving in World War II.

He was born July 9, 1917, in Allen County to Virgil and Stella (Bell) Waters. They preceded him in death.

He married Beaulah Madden on Aug. 16, 1938. She died Nov. 30, 1989.

Surviving are a sister, Irene Fifer of Hamilton, and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, Russell and Warren Waters.

Graveside services will be Friday at 2 p.m. in Waterloo Cemetery with the Rev. John Boyanowski officiating.

Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, is handling arrangements.

The EVENING STAR
February 2007 Auburn, Indiana
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# A life of caring and dedication

## Karen Denney loved her job as an obstetrics nurse

BY JULIE BUTTGEN
leader@ligtel.com

KENDALLVILLE — Every so often you hear of a person whose life truly was filled with dedication to others, who loved her job and in return was loved by those who knew her.

Karen Denney was one of those people.

Karen passed away on Feb. 4, just three days before her 60th birthday and one day shy of her 35th anniversary as a caring and dedicated nurse at McCray Memorial and Parkview Noble hospitals in Kendallville.

"She really did love her job," said her daughter, Amy Schroeder of Ligonier. "I don't know too many people that can say that, especially after 35 years."

Sue Sherer, RN, worked with Karen for more than 20 of those years.

"She was the best boss, co-worker and friend," Sherer said. "She always called me her 'right hand,' and I was proud to be that for her."

The two nurses worked together when Karen was manager of the hospital's obstetrics (OB) department. They were responsible for assisting with the delivery of thousands of babies to Noble County families.

"Karen was such a giver," added Sherer. "She put everyone else ahead of herself. She'd work double shifts so her staff could have vacation or the time off they wanted."

Another former co-worker of Karen's is Pat Gensic, RN, who now serves as the Noble County public health nurse. While Karen worked in OB, Pat worked on the hospital's "Med-Surg" area, which shared a floor with OB, eventually becoming manager of that department.

"She was a wonderful co-worker, a good buddy and a great friend," Gensic said. "As we got into management together, we went to some training seminars and workshops together. When I took my present position and Karen moved into Infection Control, we had the occasion to work together a few times again and attended a couple seminars together."

Hospital administrators also recognized Karen's compassion.

"She had a unique quality that allowed her to genuinely connect with the patients and employees at the hospital," stated Dave Hunter, Parkview Noble Hospital chief operating officer. "Karen was just as comfortable working alongside the physicians as she was talking and assisting the staff in all areas of the hospital. There is no doubt about it — she was a very special person."

Both family members and friends said Karen was very proud of being a nurse. That was one reason she wanted to be involved in starting up the Health Occupations Education (HOE) program at the hospital. HOE allows high school students to take instruction and work at the hospital for experience before pursuing further education in a medical field.

One former HOE student, Emily Leamon, LPN, now works as a nurse for the Parkview Medical Group in Ligonier, but before that, she worked for Karen in OB at the former McCray Memorial Hospital.

"Karen hired me right out of nursing school. I didn't even have a resume," Leamon shared. "She taught me a lot of what I know. She took me in. I'm so grateful to her for giving me that chance."

Evelyn Ransburg, RN, tells a similar story about Karen giving her the opportunity to work in OB.

"I had always wanted to work in OB and was waiting for an opportunity. Karen interviewed me, hired me and took me under her wing," Ransburg added. "She had an amazing energy level. She could work a double shift and be as upbeat at the end of it as she was at the start. She always had a smile on her face."

Ransburg said Karen was a kind and selfless manager.

"She made sure her staff was taken care of. She did whatever was necessary to make us comfortable. She would help out so we could have the vacation time we'd asked for. She'd do what she could to get us new equipment. She gave me the courage and guidance to begin teaching prenatal classes here at the hospital, which I'm still doing. She treated me very well and I'll never forget her."

JULIE BUTTGEN

**Karen Denney walks the Survivor lap at last year's Noble County Relay for Life with her grandson, Nicholas Schroeder. She lost her battle with cancer Feb. 4.**

It was because of this love of nursing and pride in her career that Karen's nursing legacy will live on. Just days before her death, Karen contacted Jane Roush, Parkview Noble Foundation director, and asked that memorials at the time of her death be placed in a fund at the hospital with one scholarship being given each year to an HOE student who is pursuing a nursing career.

"Karen was a dedicated and caring nurse throughout her long career," said Roush. "She believed so strongly in her profession that she wanted to make sure that others would follow in her footsteps. The Karen Denney Nursing Scholarship at Parkview Noble Hospital Foundation will encourage a Health Occupations Education student to pursue their dream of becoming a nurse."

Donations to the scholarship fund may be sent to Parkview Noble Hospital Foundation, P.O. Box 728, Kendallville, IN 46755.

The road to Karen's career as a nurse was not always an easy one. After high school, she began studying to be a nurse but became pregnant with her son and lost her scholarship.

"That was a very difficult time for her," Amy said.

In 1972, Karen was able to complete her dream of becoming a nurse. She studied at St. Joseph School of Nursing and went to work for McCray. She later received a Master's Degree from the University of Saint Francis.

"She loved to learn," Amy said. "She was very smart. She was like a sponge — she just soaked up as much information as she could."

Amy said her mom had many interests outside of nursing. Foremost was her family. She married Everett Rex Denney in 1974. Karen was a loving mom to her children, Brian Rupert, Amy and Chris Denney and stepchildren David Denney and Joni Pearson. She was a proud Grandma to her six grandchildren, Ray, Vincent, Emily, Nicholas, Sarah and Christian. She loved her siblings and her many nieces and nephews.

Karen's love for her family was evident in her actions, explained her sister-in-law, Shari Holbrook, and Amy's sister-in-law, Tammy Helfers. Holbrook called Karen "a mainstay in my life" and "the perfect sister-in-law."

"Her children and especially her grandchildren were a big part of her life," Helfers added. "Karen was very involved with their many activities and was there for her grandchildren. She was a model of character and love for all who knew her. She touched many lives, some we will never know about."

Shortly before her death, Karen visited with some of her nieces and nephews. "She was really close to them," Amy explained. "She used to take them fishing and camping with at Bixler Lake. She even took my brother and cousin to Chicago on the train so they could go to a Cubs game."

The Cubs weren't the only sports team Karen and Rex followed. They were well-known for being strong supporters of East Noble High School sports. The Lady Knights Basketball team signed a poster and team member Kelsey Franklin delivered it to Karen's hospital room, where she had it hung so she could see it. Karen and Rex also enjoyed attending the activities of their grandchildren.

A longtime member of the Kendallville Garden Club, Karen was remembered as being an inspiration to other members. "She was always willing to lend a helping hand, always one you could count on to help however she could," commented another member, Lois Miller.

Karen Denney will be remembered in many ways. In the coming months, as the Noble County Relay For Life gets underway May 19 and 20, there will be several teams walking in her memory. Both of Parkview Noble's Relay teams have dedicated this year's Relay efforts in Karen's memory. Her family will once again participate.

"Last year was the first time Mom came out and walked the survivor lap," added Amy. "She loved it! She couldn't believe how big it was and how many people were there participating."

Karen was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Kendallville and had a strong faith. Even in death, Karen was thinking of others, not only through the scholarship, but through her actions to her family and co-workers.

"She wasn't afraid to die," Amy said. "She got everything organized and made it really easy on everybody."

Longtime friend Sue Sherer echoed that: "She was fine with dying. She wasn't afraid. She just wanted to make sure we were all fine with it, and she wanted us all to know that she loved us."

## Jane Ish

AUBURN — Jane E. Ish, 88, of Auburn died Sunday, Feb. 25, 2007, at Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home in Fort Wayne.

She graduated from Ashley High School in 1937 and Indiana University in 1942. She taught home economics in St. Joe and Garrett schools.

Mrs. Ish was a member of Alpha Chi Omega Sorority and Auburn First United Methodist Church. She volunteered at the Curiosity Shop in Auburn.

She was born Jan. 7, 1919, in Adrian, Mich., to Robert and Vera (Lewis) Stingle. They preceded her in death.

On Feb. 12, 1944, in Auburn, she married Dr. Roger Ish. He survives.

Also surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Robert and Eileen Ish of Carbondale, Colo., and David Ish of St. Louis, Mo.; a daughter and son-in-law, Barbara and Gary Henderson of Auburn; four grandchildren and their spouses, Jennifer and David Casper of Auburn, Jason Reynolds of Auburn, Kelly Ish of Basalt, Colo., and Joshua Henderson of Waterloo; and two great-grandchildren, Zachary and Logan Casper of Auburn.

Services will be Tuesday at 1 p.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. Ted Jansen officiating. Burial will be Waterloo Cemetery.

Calling will be Tuesday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Auburn First United Methodist Church or Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home.

## Leota Ward

BUTLER — Leota Deloris Ward, 91, of Butler died Monday morning, Feb. 26, 2007, at her home.

Mrs. Ward was a homemaker and also worked as an assembler at Universal Tool and Stamping in Spencerville and Butler.

She was born Oct. 15, 1915, in Montpelier to John and Flora (Martin) Hart. They preceded her in death.

She married Dale F. Ward on April 21, 1945, in Fort Wayne. He died Feb. 4, 2000.

Surviving are two sons, A.B. Ward of Butler and James E. Davis of Montpelier; two daughters and a son-in-law, Rosemary Luker of Butler and Karen and Burnett McKnight of Butler; 19 grandchildren, 36 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by two sisters, Audrey Marine and Roxie Hoffman, a brother, Delmar Hart, and a daughter-in-law, Helen Davis.

Services will be Thursday at 10 a.m. in Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home, 6992 S.R. 1, Spencerville, with Pastor Dale Rabineau officiating. Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery at St. Joe.

Calling will be Wednesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Coburn Corners Church of Christ Preschool, 6813 C.R. 64, St. Joe, IN 46785.

## John Bigelow

GARRETT — John Charles Bigelow, 62, formerly of Garrett, died Sunday, Feb. 25, 2007, at 4 p.m. in Glenbrook Rehabilitation Center at Fort Wayne.

**Mr. Bigelow**

Mr. Bigelow worked on the B&O Railroad as a brakeman from August 1968 to August 1969. He then drove a truck for North American Van Lines from 1969-1976. He worked in production at Tubular Products in Garrett for one year. Finally, he worked at King-Seely in Kendallville in the maintenance department from May 10, 1976, to June 12, 1981.

He was a former member of the Garrett United Methodist Church and the Garrett Eagles.

He was born Dec. 17, 1944,in Garrett to Edward E. and Elizabeth M. (Riegel) Bigelow.

Suriving are a brother, James Bigelow of Garrett; two sisters, Karen Cottrell of Antwerp, Ohio, and Bette Duke of Claremore, Okla.; and several nieces and nephews.

Calling will be Thursday from 10 a.m. to noon at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett.

Private services will be at a later date, with burial in Christian Union Cemetery of Garrett.

Condolences may be sent by e-mail and an online guestbook may be signed at www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Memorials are to the Indiana Head Injury Foundation.

## Charles Vinson

LECANTO, Fla. — Charles Grover Vinson, 68, of Lecanto, Fla., died Sunday, Feb. 25, 2007, at his home under the care of his family and Hernando-Pasco Hospice.

He was a 1954 graduate of Riverdale High School in St. Joe and attended Indiana University in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Vinson began his career with Bowmar Instrument Corp. in Waynedale where he worked his way up to the position of vice president, traveling all over the world. Next he worked for six years at Fermont Division in Bridgeport, Conn. He then took a position with Transicoil of Norristown, Pa., where he became executive vice president of operations and, along with eight other employees, bought the business and became a co-owner.

He retired in 1994 and moved from Norristown to Carlsbad, N.M. In 2001, he moved to Lecanto.

While living in Norristown, he was a volunteer at the State Hospital. In Carlsbad he was a member of the Riverside Country Club. He was member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 4272 of Homosassa.

He enjoyed traveling, golf and the Internet and was an avid reader.

He was born Aug. 15, 1938, in Fort Wayne to Bevely Eugene and Berneda Katherine (Kleber) Vinson. His father preceded him in death on June 21, 1987, and his mother preceded him in death on Aug. 6, 2003.

Surviving are his wife of 20 years, Karin A. Vinson of Lecanto; two sons, Charles Gene Vinson of Sumter, S.C., and David Vinson of Prescott, Ariz.; two daughters and sons-in-law, Debby and Milton Eley of Connersville and Cathy and Albert George of Stratford, Conn.; a brother and sister-in-law, Jerome and Carolyn Vinson of St. Joe; seven sisters and four brothers-in-law, Lois and John Christlieb, Mary Voirol, Alice and Dennis Ransom, and Joan and Orval Wallace, all of Auburn, Nancy and Dillard Jones of Gadsden, Ala., and Theresa Harris and Virginia Miller, both of Auburn; the mother of his children, Barbara Brackert of Trumbull, Conn.; 13 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Joseph Vinson, on Jan. 25, 1995, and a grandson, Michael A. George, on Oct. 3, 2002.

A mass with Mr. Vinson's urn present will be Monday, March 12, at 11 a.m. in the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 500 E. Seventh St., Auburn, with the Rev. Babasino Fernandes officiating.

Private burial will take place at a later date at Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Memorials are to Hernando-Pasco Hospice, Citrus County Office, 2417 N. Lecanto Highway, Lecanto, FL 34461.

The Fero Funeral Home, Beverly Hills Chapel, 5955 N. Lecanto Highway, Beverly Hills, Fla., is handling arrangements.

## Randy Krafft

SPENCERVILLE — Randy L. Krafft, 44, of Spencerville, died Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2007, at his home.

Mr. Krafft was the co-owner and operator of Krafft Gravel in Spencerville. He was a volunteer firefighter for the Spencer Township Fire Department and was a member of Spencerville Masonic Lodge 556. He was a Little League Football coach in Butler for several years and attended the Coburn Corners Church of Christ in Spencerville. He was a loving and proud father and son.

He was born May 26, 1962, in Auburn to Gerald and Jennie (Haiflich) Krafft. They survive in Auburn.

He married Bev Edwards on Aug. 20, 1987, in Auburn, and she survives.

Also surviving are two sons, Mike Krafft and Cody Krafft, both of Spencerville; two daughters, Brandy Krafft and Bailey Krafft, both of Spencerville; a sister and brother-in-law, Karen and Jeff Buschman of Auburn; a brother and sister-in-law, Bob and Teri Krafft of Auburn; 15 nieces and nephews; and two great-nephews.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, Gary Ray Krafft and Steven Joe Krafft.

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. in Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with Minister Todd Steere officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Thursday from 2-8 p.m. and Friday from 10-11 a.m. at the funeral home.

A Masonic service will begin at 7 p.m. Thursday in the funeral home.

Memorials are to an educational trust fund for Mr. Krafft's children, in care of Knisely Bank.

## Wayne Schutt

KENDALLVILLE — Wayne Arthur Schutt, 64, of Kendallville died Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2007, at his home in Kendallville.

Mr. Schutt had been a delivery driver for United Parcel Service for 29 years.

He was a member of the Teamsters Union, the National Rifle Association, Eagles Lodge No. 985 in Kendallville, American Legion Post 86 in Kendallville, Cree Lake Conservation Club and Whitetails Unlimited. He was a Past Governor of the Kendallville Moose Lodge.

Mr. Schutt

He graduated from LaGrange High School in 1960.

He was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed hunting, fishing, and bow shooting.

He was born in Brighton on Dec. 26, 1942, to Glenn F. and Leila Vesta (Cleland) Schutt. He married Deeann Carter on Dec. 19, 1965, at Trinity Church United Methodist in Kendallville. She died Jan. 27, 1993.

Surviving are his fiance and companion, Joan Cooper of Kendallville; two daughters, Teresa Schutt of Fort Wayne and Veronica Cole of Elwood; a son and daughter-in-law, Byron and Roseann Schutt of Auburn; a brother and sister-in-law, Gene and Carolyn Schutt of LaOtto; a sister and brother-in-law, Maretha and Chuck McCoy of Martinsville; and five grandchildren, Jeffery Schutt, Selina Schutt, Katherine Cole, Lucas Schutt and Rebecca Schutt.

He was also preceded in death by his parents and a son, Michael Schutt in 1961.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville. Burial will be at Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville.

Calling will be from 3-8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society, Whitetails Unlimited and National Rifle Association Hunter Safety Education Program.

View a video tribute or send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneral-home.com.

## Helen Wells

SOUTH VIENNA, Ohio — Helen J. Wells, 67, of South Vienna, Ohio died Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2007, at Community Hospital in Springfield, Ohio.

Mrs. Wells had been employed by Garrett Flexible for many years prior to working at Tuffy's Depot, a restaurant owned by her brother.

Mrs. Wells

Mrs. Wells loved cats, spending time with her family, cooking and baking. She will be remembered for her kindness and generosity.

She was born in LaGrange County on Dec. 29, 1939, to Otho D. and Nellie (Moser) High. She was raised in LaGrange County and attended school at South Milford Elementary School and Kendallville High School.

She married Cecil L. Wells on Sept. 7, 1957, in Wallen. He survives in South Vienna.

Also surviving are: daughter and her fiancé, Deborah L. Wells and Steve Gillespie of South Vienna; two sons and one daughter-in-law; Donald L. and Jo Wells of Garrett and Duane Wells of Garrett; two sisters and brothers-in-law, Agatha and Lawrence Stratton of Sturgis, Mich., and Margaret and Cecil Hazelton of Kendallville; two brothers and a sister-in-law, Chet and Kim High of Garrett and Wilber High of Decatur, Ill; four grandchildren and their spouses, Stacy and Jason Lott of Camden, Mich., Nadine and Corey Kline of Kendallville, Kevin Salisbury of Garrett and DJ Wells and his fianceé, Meghan Cliford, of Kendallville; and seven great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Wells was preceded in death by her parents, and two brothers; Elmer High and Gerald "Tuffy" High.

Services will be Friday at 1:30 p.m. at Jackson Lytle & Ingling Williams Funeral Home in Springfield, Ohio. Pastor Brynton "Ben" Gibson will officiate. Pallbearers will be Don Wells, Duane Wells, DJ Wells, Larry Stratton, Corey Kline and Steve Gillespie. Burial will be at Rose Hill Park in Springfield, Ohio.

Calling will be Thursday from 4-7 p.m. and Friday from 12:30-1:30 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the National Diabetes Association.

Condolences may be sent to jodon@onemain.com.

## Jo Ann McGinnis

AUBURN — Jo Ann McGinnis, 73, of Auburn died Monday, Feb. 26, 2007, at 12:20 p.m. in DeKalb Memorial Hospital of Auburn.

A former resident of Wabash, she had retired from GenCorp, formerly known as General Tire. She was a member of Lincolnville United Methodist Church, Moose Lodge 1195 in Wabash and the Eagles in Wabash. She was a graduate of VanLear High School.

She was born May 20, 1933, in Johnson County, Ky., to Oliver "Red" and Angie (Webb) Lynn. They preceded her in death.

She also was preceded in death by her husbands, John Ballard, who died in 1972, and William McGinnis, who died in 1998.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Kennie and Vickie Pack of Weyauwega, Wis.; a stepson, Rick McGinnis of Wabash; two daughters and sons-in-law, Donna and Darrell Young of Auburn and Edna and Terry Bassett of Wabash; two stepdaughters, Debbie Corn of Wabash and Kelly Stout and her husband, Gary, of Wabash; three brothers and sisters-in-law, Charles and Barb Lynn of Rome City, John and Mildred Lynn of Wabash and Jack and Pat Lynn of Wabash; three sisters and a brother-in-law, Lois Blair of Kentucky, Martha Whitesel of Lagro and Betty and Harold Chaplin of Wabash; six grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, six stepgrandchildren and four stepgreat-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a son, Billy W. Pack, two brothers and a sister.

Services will be Saturday at 11 a.m in McDonald Funeral Home, Eddingfield Chapel, 231 Falls Ave., Wabash.The Rev. Melissa Rice will officiate. Burial will be in Friends Cemetery of Wabash.

Calling will be Friday from 2-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Diabetes Association.

To send condolences, visit www.mcdonaldfunerals.com.

## Edna King

AUBURN — Edna L. King, 76, died Friday, Feb. 23, 2007, at Hospice Home in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. King

Mrs. King was born in Indianapolis. She was a homemaker and a member of American Legion Post 97 in Auburn, Garrett Eagles and The Red Hat Society. She loved to gamble and was an avid knitter who made prayer shawls.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Randall A. and Nancy King of New Mexico and Charles A. and Michelle King of Garrett; three daughters and two sons-in-law, Cynthia A. and Stuart Schlaifer of Auburn, Charlotte A. and Rex Bailey of Fort Wayne, and Beverly A. Nichols of Brooksville, Fla.; one brother, Jack Thompson of Wake Forest, N.C.; 11 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Mrs. King was preceded in death by her husband, Tilden King, in 2005 and her brother, Myron Thompson, in 2006.

A memorial service will begin at 4 p.m. Saturday in McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. Father Jeffrey Horn will officiate.

Calling will be from 1-4 p.m. Saturday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Visiting Nurse & Hospice Home.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** *is being reprinted with revised information*

## Leota Ward

BUTLER — Leota Deloris Ward, 91, of Butler, died Monday morning, Feb. 26, 2007, at her home.

Mrs. Ward was a homemaker and also worked as an assembler at Universal Tool and Stamping in Spencerville and Butler.

She was born Oct. 15, 1915, in Montpelier, Ind., to John and Flora (Martin) Hart. They preceded her in death.

She married Dale F. Ward on April 21, 1945, in Fort Wayne. He died Feb. 4, 2000.

Surviving are two sons, A.B. Ward of Butler and James E. Davis of Montpelier, Ind.; two daughters, Rosemary Luker of Butler and Karen (Burnett) McKnight of Butler; 19 grandchildren, 36 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by two sisters, Audrey Marine and Roxie Hoffman, a brother, Delmar Hart, and a daughter-in-law, Helen Davis.

Services will be Thursday at 10 a.m. in Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home, 6992 S.R. 1, Spencerville, with Pastor Dale Rabineau officiating. Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery at St. Joe.

Calling will be today from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Coburn Corners Church of Christ Preschool, 6813 C.R. 64, St. Joe, IN 46785.

## Twilla Frye

GARRETT — Twilla "Yvonne" Frye, 76, of Garrett died Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2007, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mrs. Frye was a pastor's wife for 35 years. She was a member of the Churubusco Church of the Nazarene and was a very active volunteer in the church.

She was born Jan. 26, 1931, in Lansing, Mich., to Arthur and Fay M. (Teed) Clark. They preceded her in death.

She married the Rev. John C. Frye on Nov. 27, 1948, in Mason, Mich., and he survives.

Also surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Marjorie L. and James Brown of Leslie, Mich., and Vickie S. and J.C. Meier of Avilla; five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a son, Rick S. Frye, and a brother, Wayne E. Clark.

Services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. in the Churubusco Church of the Nazarene with the Rev. Paul White officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery of Garrett.

Calling will be Friday from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. and Saturday from 10-11 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to the Churubusco Church of the Nazarene.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, is handling arrangements.

## Susie Bishop

AUBURN — Susie Bishop, 47, of Auburn died Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mrs. Bishop

Mrs. Bishop was the office manager at Custom Coating in Auburn. She enjoyed warm weather, volleyball and Texas Hold'em, but what she loved most was being with her family and spending time with her friends.

She was born Nov. 18, 1959, in Auburn to David and Ruth (Friend) Walters. They survive in Auburn.

She married Tom Bishop on Sept. 22, 1979, at the First United Methodist Church in Auburn. He survives.

Also surviving are two daughters, Sadie Bishop and Abby Bishop, both of Auburn; a brother, Ed Walters of Waterloo; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Annette and Jeff Bowman of Indianapolis and Jane Walters of St. Joe; and three nieces, Elizabeth Walters, Danielle Bowman and Addie Walters.

Services will be Friday at 8 p.m. in Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Pastor Scott Mosley, the Rev. Ted Jansen and the Rev. Dale Williams will officiate.

Calling will be Friday from 2-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society or a charity of the donor's choice.

## Betty Kimmel

FORT WAYNE — Betty Ruth Kimmel, 84, died Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2007, at Parkview Memorial Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Born in DeKalb County, she was a supervisor of housekeeping with Lutheran Hospital for 11 years. She attended Waynedale United Methodist Church and enjoyed baking and embroidering.

Surviving are five daughters and four sons-in-law, Loretta and Ansel Hauser Beck of Huntington, Marilyn Waikel of Fort Wayne, Elaine and Fred Crum of Fort Wayne, Phyllis and Robert Loomis of Greeley, Colo., and Sally and Ted Sgro of Wolcottville; three sons and daughters-in-law, Robert and Vera Kimmel Jr. of Wilkinson, Clifford and Jane Kimmel of Fort Wayne and Steven and April Kimmel of Fort Wayne; three sisters, Esther Pfiffer of Tennessee, Carol German of Illinois, and Helen Dennison of Indiana; two brothers, Harold Winebrenner of Arizona and Robert Winebrenner of California; 23 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Kimmel Sr., in 1968, and a son, Phillip.

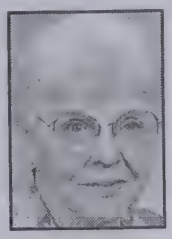
Services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. in D.O. McComb & Sons Foster Park Funeral Home, 6301 Fairfield Ave., Fort Wayne, with the Rev. Doug Croucher officiating. Burial will be in Greenlawn Memorial Park.

Calling will be today from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. and Saturday from 10-11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Shriner's Children's Hospital.

## Phyllis Hamilton

AUBURN — Phyllis A. Hamilton, 89, of Auburn died Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2007, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.


Mrs. Hamilton

Born in Farmland, Mrs. Hamilton was a homemaker and worked at Messenger Corp. in Auburn and also at the DeKalb County auditor's office for several years. She graduated from Farmland High School in 1935.

She was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Auburn and enjoyed crafts and knitting.

Surviving are two daughters and a son-in-law, Judith Getts of Garrett and Jayne and Dan Challand of Florida; four grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and a sister, Janice Stebing of Auburn.

Services will be Saturday at 10 a.m. in McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. The Rev. Ted Jansen, the Rev. Wilbur Yates and the Rev. Dale Williams will officiate. Burial will be in Farmland.

Calling will be today from 6-9 p.m. and Saturday from 9-10 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Diabetes and Alzheimer's associations or the First United Methodist Church.

## Lawrence Church

KENDALLVILLE — Lawrence E. Church, 63, of Kendallville died Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2007, at Wesley Health Care in Auburn.

He was born April 8, 1943, in Ashland, Ky., to George and Laura Mae Church. They preceded him in death.

Surviving is a daughter, Vickie Church of Waterloo.

A son, Phillip E. Church, preceded him in death on Dec. 2, 2003.

Services will be at a later date. Feller Funeral Home of Waterloo is handling arrangements.

## Edna Morr

AUBURN — Edna L. Morr, 101, of Auburn, died Friday, March 2, 2007, at Wesley Healthcare in Auburn.

Mrs. Morr was a homemaker. She was a member of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) in Auburn, the DeKalb Memorial Hospital Guild and DeKalb County Farm Bureau.

She was born Jan. 14, 1906, in DeKalb County to Almond and Dora (Reasoner) Reinhart.

She married Walter H. Morr on March 6, 1926, in Muncie. He died in 1984.

Surviving are a son, Samuel M. Morr of Auburn; a sister, Wilma Ginder of Fort Wayne; a daughter-in-law, Joan Morr of Auburn; five grandchildren and spouses, Renee and Les Grewcock, Terri and Joe Hoover, Diane and David Kieser, Jeff and Michelle Morr and Tom Morr; and nine great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by two sons, Harold Morr and Norman D. Morr; a daughter-in-law, Joyce Morr; two brothers, Walter Reinhart and Wilbur Reinhart; and two sisters, Gladys Baker and Mildred Reinhart.

Services will be Monday at 10 a.m. in Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Al Black officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-6 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to RSVP of Auburn.

## Doris Uehlein

SPENCERVILLE — Doris Phyllis Uehlein, 83, of Spencerville, died Friday, March 2, 2007, at The Waters of Summit City, Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Uehlein worked as a lead operator at General Electric in Fort Wayne for 25 years. She was a member of the Loyal Order of the Moose 556 in Auburn and the Waterloo Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary.

She was born Nov. 6, 1923, in Steuben County to Phillip and Etta (Herr) Schuller. They preceded her in death.

She married Robert T. Uehlein on March 25, 1944, in Ege. He died Feb. 15, 1996.

Surviving are two sons, Larry Uehlein of Garrett and Terry Uehlein of Auburn; two daughters, Sandra Uehlein of Spencerville and Bobette Roberts of Fort Wayne; eight grandchildren, Chris Roberts, Scott Johnson, Phyllis Wise, Mityie Uehlein, Ann Mettert, Nicole West, Dave Gerbers and Melissa Uehlein; and eight great-grandchildren, Brendin, Kyle, Kendall, Kelsey, Kristen, Sadie, Audra and Chris Jr.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Walter Schuller; two sisters, Marvelle Freeze and Margaret Axtell; and a grandson, Chad Uehlein.

Services will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. in the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Auburn, with Father Babasino Fernandes officiating. Burial will be in the Immaculate Conception Catholic Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Monday from 2-4 p.m. and 5-7 p.m. at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. A rosary service will be Monday at 5 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Cancer Society or the Alzheimer's Association.

## Paul Beatty

AUBURN — Paul J. Beatty, 83, of Auburn died Friday, March 2, 2007, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Beatty was a line foreman for Indiana Michigan Power Co. for 38 years, and retired in 1986.

He was a World War II veteran, and a member of the Butler American Legion and the Butler Eagles.

On June 22, 1923, in Fort Wayne, he was born to Glen and Pauline (Fredrick) Beatty. He married Shirley (Anderson) Porter on Oct. 6, 1981, in Sevierville, Tenn. She survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Steve and Shannon Beatty of Spring, Texas; a stepson, Jeffrey Porter of Lexington, S.C.; a daughter, Cindy Trosian of St. Pete Beach, Fla.; a stepdaughter, Alisha Heffley of Hudson; two brothers, Donald and Robert Beatty, both of Port Richie, Fla.; two grandchildren, Michael and Angela Beatty; three stepgrandchildren, Tyler, Jared and April Osborn; and a great-grandchild, Jacob Beatty.

A sister, Vivian VanAuken, and his parents preceded him in death.

Private family graveside services will be held at a later date in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Preferred memorials are to the donor's choice.

Feller and Clark Funeral, Auburn, is in charge of arrangements.

## Lawrence Frye

AUBURN — Lawrence "Larry" Frye, 71, of Auburn died Friday, March 2, 2007, at his home with his family by his side.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Auburn.

Calling will be from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Monday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, Auburn, and also from 10 to 11 a.m. Tuesday at the church.

## Doris Uehlein

FORT WAYNE — Doris Phyllis Uehlein, 83, died Friday, March 2, 2007, at The Waters of Summit City in Fort Wayne.

She worked at the GE plant in Fort Wayne for 25 years as a lead operator. She was a member of the Loyal Order of Moose #556 in Auburn and the Waterloo VFW Auxiliary.

Mrs. Uehlein was born Nov. 6, 1923, in Steuben County to Phillip and Etta (Herr) Schuller. Both preceded her in death.

She married Robert E. Uehlein on March 25, 1944, in Ege. He preceded her in death Feb. 15, 1996.

Survivors include two sons, Larry Uehlein of Garrett and Terry Uehlein of Auburn; two daughters, Sandra Uehlein of Spencerville and Bobetter Roberts of Fort Wayne; eight grandchildren, Chris Roberts, Scott Johnson, Phyllis Wise, Mitzie Uehlein , Ann Mettert, Nicole West, Dave Gerbers and Melissa Uehlein; and eight great-grandchildren, Brendin, Kyle, Kendall, Kelsey, Kristen, Sadie, Audra and Chris Jr.

Preceding her in death were her parents; husband; a brother, Walter Schuller; two sisters, Marvelle Freeze and Margaret Freeze; and one grandson, Chad Uehlein.

Services will be held Tuesday at 11 a.m. at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn. Fr. Babasino Fernandes will officiate.

Calling will be held from 2 to 4 and 5 to 7 p.m. Monday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home in Auburn. A rosary will be held at 5 p.m. at the funeral home. Burial will be at Immaculate Conception Cemetery in Auburn.

Memorials may be made to the DeKalb County Cancer Society or Alzheimer's Association.

## Lawrence Frye

AUBURN — Lawrence E. "Larry" Frye, 71, of Auburn died Friday, March 2, 2007, at his home.

Mr. Frye was a line crew supervisor for Indiana and Michigan Electric Co. of Fort Wayne for 44 years, retiring in March of 1997. He served as a staff sergeant in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict.

He was a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Auburn, the Tri County Pony Pullers Association, 4 County Pony Pullers Association, Waterloo Veterans of Foreign Wars, AEP Live Wirers and the DeKalb County Fair Association.

He was born March 6, 1935, in Harlan to Lester O. and Doris I. (Hodges) Frye. They preceded him in death.

He married Patricia J. Flora on June 30, 1956, in North Manchester. She died Oct. 6, 2000.

Surviving are four sons, Douglas L. Frye and his wife, Dawn, Richard D. Frye and his wife, Jody, Brian K. Frye and Denis C. Frye and his girlfriend, Joan, all of Waterloo; a daughter and son-in-law, Jodie R. and Christopher Botteron of Madison, Wis.; a brother, Randy L. Frye of Urbana; 13 grandchildren, Nathan L. Frye, Kristin R. Damstra, Richard D. Frye II, David J. Frye, Jacqueline R. Frye, Brittney N. Frye, Jamie N. Hang, Benjamin J. Botteron, Janel A. Frye, Sabrina J. Pritchard, Misty Williams, Derrick Staley and Steven Warstler; nine great-grandchildren, Shelby M. Warstler, Bryce A. Damstra, Shyanne Pritchard, Jaylynn Pritchard, Nevaeh Pritchard, Ty R. Smurr, Javier Moreno, Megan Moreno and Natalee Warstler.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Max W. Frye, and three grandchildren, Bridget Jo Botteron, Brian K. Frye Jr. and Jeremy M. Frye.

Services will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. in St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 211 W. Ninth St., Auburn. The Rev. Stephen Kummernuss will officiate. Burial will be in Roselawn Cemetery of Auburn, with military honors conducted by American Legion Post 97 of Auburn.

Calling will be today from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, and Tuesday from 10-11 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

## Max Fetzer

COLUMBIA CITY — Max Steven Fetzer, 50, of Columbia City, died Saturday, March 3, 2007, at The Oaks Nursing Home in Columbia City.

Mr. Fetzer was born Oct. 31, 1956, in Auburn. He worked at Wolf Envelope in Angola for two years. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and music.

Surviving are his mother, Louise Fetzer of Hamilton; three sons, Max C. Fetzer, Stephen Carl Fetzer and Austin Harvey Fetzer, all of Hamilton; and a sister and brother-in-law, Marsha and Charles Peters of Hicksville, Ohio.

He was preceded in death by his father, Max H. Fetzer, in 1993, and two sisters, Cathie J. Baker and Rebecca A. Cool.

There will be no services or calling.

McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home of Auburn is handling arrangements.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** *is being reprinted to list an additional surviving relative.*

## Doris Uehlein

FORT WAYNE — Doris Phyllis Uehlein, 83, died Friday, March 2, 2007, at The Waters of Summit City in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Uehlein worked at the General Electric plant in Fort Wayne for 25 years as a lead operator. She was a member of the Loyal Order of Moose 556 in Auburn and the Waterloo Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary.

She was born Nov. 6, 1923, in Steuben County to Phillip and Etta (Herr) Schuller. They preceded her in death.

She married Robert E. Uehlein on March 25, 1944, in Ege. He died Feb. 15, 1996.

Surviving are two sons, Larry Uehlein of Garrett and Terry Uehlein of Auburn; two daughters, Sandra Uehlein of Spencerville and Bobetter Roberts of Fort Wayne; eight grandchildren, Chris Roberts, Scott Johnson, Phyllis Wise, Mitzie Uehlein, Ann Mettert, Nicole West, Dave Gerbers and Melissa Uehlein; and nine great-grandchildren, Brendin, Kyle, Kendall, Kelsey, Kristen, Sadie, Audra, Chris Jr. and Cole.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Walter Schuller; two sisters, Marvelle Freeze and Margaret Freeze; and one grandson, Chad Uehlein.

Services will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn. Father Babasino Fernandes will officiate. Burial will be at Immaculate Conception Cemetery in Auburn.

Calling will be today from 2-4 and 5-7 p.m. ESat Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. A rosary service will begin at 5 p.m. Monday in the funeral home.

Memorials are the DeKalb County Cancer Society or Alzheimer's Association.

## Margaret Aubert

AUBURN — Margaret R. Aubert, 89, of Auburn died Monday, March 5, 2007, at her home.

Mrs. Aubert was a registered nurse in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Illinois. She worked in several hospitals with patients in gynecology, labor and delivery, pediatrics and private duty, then retired in 1981 as an industrial nurse for W.F. Hall Printing Co. in Chicago.

She belonged to Presbyterian churches in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Illinois. She was an elder at Mayfair Presbyterian Church in Chicago, where she received a 25-year certificate. Most recently, she had been a member of Auburn Presbyterian Church.

She was born March 31, 1917, at Sharon, Pa., to Leo W. and Priscilla C. (Charles) Ramage. They preceded her in death.

She married Maurice R. Aubert in Mercer, Pa., in March 1938. He died in November 1948.

Surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Margaret and Roland Myers of Kankakee, Ill., and Maris and Steve Sebastain of Edgerton, Ohio; one sister, Olive Portal of Hubbard, Ohio; five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Services will be Thursday at 11 a.m. in Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. The Rev. William Haworth will officiate. Burial will be in Oakdale Cemetery at Sharon, Pa.

Calling will be Wednesdy from 5-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Friends Table of Auburn Presbyterian Church or the Indian Village Church of God Food Pantry.

## Valerie Brown

GARRETT — Valerie A. Brown, 44, of Garrett died Saturday, March 3, 2007, at her home.

Mrs. Brown was a homemaker. She was born Feb. 3, 1963, in Auburn to Myles and Janet (Bergstrom) Healy. Her father preceded her in death. Her mother survives in Garrett.

She married Joseph Brown on Sept. 1, 2000, in Butler. He survives.

Also surviving are two sons, Jesse Wayne Littrell and Jackie William Littrell, both of Oneonta, Ala.; a daughter, Breanna Elaine Littrell of Oneonta, Ala.; a brother and sister-in-law, Pat and Margit Healy of Portland, Ore.; her aunts and uncles, Rick and Lanie Bergstrom, Vickie and Henry Zecca and Jim and Rosella DePew, all of Auburn, and Hiroko Healy of Edgerton, Ohio; her mother-in-law, Marge Brown of Garrett; several nieces, nephews and cousins and four great-aunts.

She was preceded in death by a sister, Marsha Healy, her grandparents, Falconer and Hilda Bergstrom and Signa Sindel, and two uncles, Don and Alfred Healy.

There will be no services or calling. Feller & Clark Funeral Home of Auburn is handling arrangements.

Memorials are to the family.

## Dale Rinehold

WATERLOO — Dale E. Rinehold, 65, of Waterloo died Tuesday, March 6, 2007, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Rinehold

Mr. Rinehold was the co-owner and operator of Rinehold Tack and Western Wear in Waterloo for the past 38 years. He was a lifetime farmer in Smithfield Township. He was a member of the DeKalb County Horseman's Association and the Indiana Haflinger Association. He also was a former DeKalb County 4-H leader and a member and the first president of the DeKalb County Horse and Pony Club.

He was born April 22, 1941, in Auburn to Carl Ivan and Lorraine (Likes) Rinehold. They preceded him in death.

He married Jean Sebert on May 12, 1963, in Waterloo. She survives.

Also surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Cheryl and Brad Hamlin of Pleasant Lake; a son, Timothy L. Rinehold of Waterloo; a sister and brother-in-law, Sharon and Max Reinoehl of Ashley; a brother, Roger Rinehold; three grandchildren, Logan Rinehold, Josie Rinehold and Hunter Hamlin; and two stepgrandchildren, Heather Hamlin and Haley Hamlin.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Friday in Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. The Rev. Craig Burkholder and the Rev. Rex Charles will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be from 2-8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County 4-H.

## Frederick Fleming

LAKE ORION, Mich. — Frederick E. Fleming, 84, of Lake Orion, Mich., and formerly of Auburn died Sunday, March 4, 2007.

Mr. Fleming was a production manager at Borg-Warner. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving during World War II.

Surviving are his wife, Elizabeth; two sons and daughters-in-law, Dennis and Patricia Fleming of Auburn and Michael and Sandra Fleming of Springboro, Ohio; a daughter-in-law, Connie Fleming; six grandchildren, Andrea, Ryan, David, Daniel, Andy and Leann; a great-grandson, Cory; and a brother, Frank.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Betty; a son, Rick Fleming; and two brothers, Kenneth and Leon.

Services will be today at 11 a.m. at King of Kings Lutheran Church, 1715 S. Lapeer Road, Lake Orion, with Pastor Bill Bendert officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

A memorial reflection may be left at www.sparksgriffin.com.

The Sparks-Griffin Funeral Home, 111 E. Flint St., Lake Orion, is handling arrangements.

## Esta Reinoehl

GARRETT — Esta "Bud" Reinoehl, 78, of Garrett died unexpectedly at 10:24 a.m. Monday, March 5, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Reinoehl

Mr. Reinoehl had made his home with his sister, Odessie Shultz, the past six years and was a lifetime area resident.

He had been employed at Newnam (Dalton) Foundry in Kendallville.

Mr. Reinoehl had attended the Nazarene Church in Garrett.

He was born Dec. 27, 1928, in Noble County to Franklin and Hazel Agnes (Snyder) Reinoehl. He married Ruth E. Wirick on June 8, 1956. She died March 16, 2005.

Surviving are two sisters, Blanchie Shultz of Fort Wayne and Odessie Schultz; and several nieces and nephews.

He was also preceded in death by four sisters.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday at Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, with the Rev. Patrick Hess officiating. Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery at Corunna. Pallbearers will be Keith Shultz, Bob Shultz, Nate Shultz, Erwin Christie, Gerald Herron, Chuck Herron, Mathew Perry Jr. and Matt Perry Sr.

Calling will be Thursday from 4-7 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Church of the Nazarene in Garrett.

## Dorothy Conley

LAOTTO — Dorothy Conley, 71, of LaOtto died Tuesday, March 6, 2007, at her home.

Mrs. Conley was a homemaker.

Mrs. Conley

She enjoyed quilting, sewing, reading, nature and wildlife.

Mrs. Conley attended Grace Christian Church in Kendallville.

She was born in Garrett, Ky., on Jan. 29, 1936, to Crit and Maggie (Bradley) Handshoe. She married Bennie Conley on Dec. 15, 1951, in Fremont. He preceded her death on Oct. 16, 1998.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Jerry and Clidia Conley and Jeff and Latesa Conley, all of Kendallville; three daughters and two sons-in-law, Mary and Daryl Mitchell and Barbara Bowman, all of LaOtto, and Elizabeth and Nick Weber of Avilla; three sisters and two brothers-in-law, Glenna and G.C. Johnson of LaOtto, Antha and John Bailey of Auburn and Delphi Miller of Brimfield; a brother, Garman Handshoe of Fort Wayne; 11 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; three sisters, Ruth Bailey, Julie Conley and Edith Cook; and three brothers, Pard, Arnold and Garnel Handshoe.

Services will be at 1:30 p.m. Friday at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville. Burial will be at Christian Union Cemetery in Garrett. Pallbearers will be Nate Mitchell, Jason Weber, Justin Weber, Jared Conley, Chad Conley, Lonnie Conley and Gary Long.

Calling will be from 3-8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Noble County Humane Shelter.

View a video tribute or send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

## Freida Leach

GARRETT — Freida E. Leach, 73, of Garrett died Wednesday, March 7, 2007, at 9:05 p.m. at her home.

Mrs. Leach was a member of the Living Waters Baptist Church in Garrett, the Garrett post of the American Legion and the Red Hat Society. She was an Army veteran, serving with the W.A.C. division.

Mrs. Leach

She was born Feb. 8, 1934, in Albion to Dallas and Mary (Kessling) Leitch. They preceded her in death.

She married Melvin E. Leach on Nov. 12, 1954, in Fort Benning, Ga. He died in 1977.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Michael E. and Rosemary Leach and Ernest W. and Kathy Leach, all of Garrett; a daughter, Cynthia L. Schroeder of Fort Wayne; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; four brothers, Willard Leitch of Shreveport, La., Ray Leitch of Danville, Iowa, Dick Leitch of Spencerville and Danny Leitch of Ocala, Fla.; and two sisters, Marcille Leatherman of Albion and Rosalie Johnson of Elkhart.

She was preceded in death by three brothers, Jimmy, Wilmer and Leo Leitch, and two sisters, Mary Leitch and Joann Houser.

Services will be Saturday at 2 p.m. in Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 66, Garrett. The Rev. H. Dean Morris of Living Waters Baptist Church will officiate. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery of Garrett, with graveside military services by the Garrett posts of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars

Calling will be Saturday from noon to 2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Visiting Nurse and Hospice, 5910 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46814.

To sign a guest book or send a condolence, visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

## Ercell Beebe

FORT WAYNE —Ercell O. Beebe, 95, of Fort Wayne died Thursday, March 8, 2007, at Dupont Hospital in Fort Wayne.

She was an elementary teacher with Butler and East Allen County schools for 36 years. She was an avid gardener.

Mrs. Beebe was born in Steuben County.

Surviving are a son, Jerry Beebe of Fremont; a daughter and son-in-law, Jewel and Donald Youso of Port Charlotte, Fla.; eight grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandson.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Keith H. Beebe, in 1972; a daughter-in-law, Patricia; and a grandson, Randy.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Sunday at Georgetown Place, Fort Wayne, in the gathering room, with the Rev. Donald Youso officiating. Burial will be in Butler Cemetery, Butler.

Calling will be Saturday from 2 to 4 p.m. at D.O. McComb & Sons Maplewood Park Funeral Home, Fort Wayne.

Memorials are to the American Heart Association or the American Cancer Society.

## Helen Gilbert

AUBURN — Helen M. Gilbert, 94, of Auburn died Friday, March 9, 2007, at Betz Nursing Home, Auburn.

Mrs. Gilbert worked as an inspector for King Seeley Corp. for 10 years and then was a secretary for RCA in Findlay, Ohio, for 16 years, retiring in 1972. She attended the Auburn Church of the Nazarene.

She was born Sept. 24, 1912, in Butler to Clarence A. and Maggie (Slentz) Cook. They preceded her in death.

She married Ned B. Gilbert on Feb. 20, 1937, in East Chicago, Ill., and he survives.

Also surviving are a brother and sister-in-law, Scott and Mary Jane Cook of Livonia, Mich.; two nieces and their spouses, Martha and Larry Berndt of Fremont, Mich., and Linda and Jim Brunetto of Michigan; and a nephew, Scott W. Cook Jr. of Michigan.

She was preceded in death by two sisters, Arlene Searfoss and Iris White.

Services will be Monday at 11 a.m. in Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Dan White officiating. Burial will be in the Butler Cemetery.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-6 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Auburn Church of the Nazarene Building Fund.

## Lillian Evans

AUBURN — Lillian M. Evans, 85, of Auburn died Tuesday, March 6, 2007, at her son's residence in Auburn.

**Mrs. Evans**

Mrs. Evans was a member of Christ Lutheran Church in Carey, Ohio, and the Order of the Eastern Star. She was active in Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts and volunteer work most of her life. She owned and worked in beauty shops for 25 years.

She was born Sunday, Aug. 14, 1921, in Carey, Ohio, to the late John E. and Bernetta (Bakies) Reynolds.

She married Harold K. "Bamby" Evans Oct. 26, 1940. He died April 16, 1987.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Penelope and Kenny Niederkohr of Carey, Ohio; a son and daughter-in-law, John and Jody Evans of Auburn; 13 grandchildren and their spouses, Kadish and Misty of Auburn; Mackenzie and Ron of Fort Wayne; Chris and Wanda, Tracy, Craig and Jackie, and Chad and Jayme, all of Carey, Ohio; Stacy of Auburn; Stephanie of Auburn; Chris and Angie, Kevin, Trevor and Penny, and Ashley, all of Carey, Ohio; and Chad and Jenny of Findlay, Ohio; a sister, Margueriete Myers of Bucyrus, Ohio; a sister-in-law, Mary Reynolds of Carey, Ohio; and 24 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by an infant son, Tommy D.; a brother, John "Les" Reynolds; and a sister, Vivian Tackett.

A graveside memorial service will be Thursday, March 22, at 11 a.m. at Spring Grove Cemetery in Carey, Ohio.

Contributions may be made to DeKalb Memorial Home Health and Hospice.

## Bernard Lynch

KENDALLVILLE — Bernard C. Lynch, 87, of Kendallville, died Saturday, March 10, 2007, at Hickory Creek of Kendallville, Kendallville.

He was retired from the Empire Blue Cross and Blue Shield of New York as the office manager.

Mr. Lynch served in the U.S. Army with the 82nd Airborne Division in the South Pacific in World War II. He was a member of and attended the DeKalb County Church of Christ in Garrett, and had a great love of classical music and art.

In Brooklyn, N.Y., he was born to Joseph and Lillian (Nelson) Dunn on April 8, 1919. He married Susanne Burgess on July 31, 1943 in Brooklyn. She preceded him in death on March 7, 1989.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Holly and Frank Graskewitz, Kendallville; a granddaughter, Bethany Jantz, Fort Wayne; and a grandson, Brett Graskewitz, Muncie.

Memorial services will be at noon Sunday, March 25, at the DeKalb County Church of Christ in Garrett with Chad Brock officiating. Burial will be at a later date in New York.

There is no calling.

Memorials may be made to the DeKalb County Church of Christ.

Hite Funeral Home, Kendallville, is in charge of arrangements.

The EVENING STAR
March 11 2007 Auburn, Indiana

# Family, friends s[illegible]e memories of Donay

BY JAMIE LEMKE-BARRAND
jamiel@kpcnews.net

LAKE JAMES — Larry Donay was remembered by his family and friends as a man of few words — but they had no shortage of things to say about him.

"Larry was very proud of his family. I heard him talk of his sons many times to people and always with pride in his voice," Nicole Donay, the wife of one of Larry's five sons, Greg, wrote in a eulogy she read at her father-in-law's funeral Thursday. "He wasn't good at telling people how he felt about them, but I know how much he loved his family. I was always proud to say that I was Larry Donay's daughter-in-law. I will always feel blessed to have been a part of his life."

Lawrence "Larry" Donay died Monday after battling a rare, degenerative brain disease for seven years. He was 70.

Larry's wife Nan, whom he met in 1990 and married on Sept. 13, 1991, said the lake was a big part of her husband's life. The couple lived on Lake James, and Larry's hobbies included boating and deep sea fishing.

He was a member of the Classic Wooden Boat Society, and was instrumental in launching a wooden boat show in 2000 that is now held on Lake James every summer.

"He was so proud of his boat," Nan said. "He probably still is."

Nicole met Larry 18 years ago, when she was 17.

"Larry took me right in and treated me as part of his family," she said. "In all of the years that I have known Larry, I never heard him say a bad word about anybody. He wasn't one to gossip."

One of Larry's truest joys was being a grandfather. Greg and Nicole's first daughter, Macy, was the apple of her grandfather's eye.

"When I was pregnant for my first daughter Macy, Greg and I went to Florida to stay with Larry and Nan and they had a wonderful surprise waiting for us. They had named their boat 'Miss Macy,'" Nicole said. "From that moment on, (Larry) shared an incredible bond with his first Donay granddaughter. Macy made Larry's eyes light up when he saw her. I was blown away with the love he had for her."

Tragically, Macy became ill and passed away on Sept. 4, 2002. She was 15 months old.

"When we lost Macy, a big part of Larry's heart went with her," Nicole said.

Nan agreed.

"He adored that little girl," she said.

Larry and Nan took care of Nicole and Greg's middle daughter, Kaia, while Nicole worked on an internship for her master's degree.

"I will forever be grateful for that time he spent with her," Nicole said. "Even during some of his worst days, he always lit up when Kaia would come in to see him at the nursing home."

Greg and Nicole's third daughter, Sydney, was four months old when she passed away on Nov. 2, 2004.

"(Larry) didn't get much time with Sydney, but I do know how much he loved all three of my girls," Nicole said.

FILE PHOTO BY ANDY BARRAND

**Larry Donay, right, sits in a classic wooden boat at his Lake James home with his wife Nan and son Greg in June of 2003.**

Nicole said one of the best things Larry brought into her life was Nan.

"Nan has been like another mother to me," she said.

Larry was president and part-owner of Alchem Aluminum in Coldwater, Mich., for many years. He retired in 2000. Several people who worked with Larry over the years wrote entries in his online remembrance registry at www.dutcherfh.com.

"I had the wonderful opportunity to meet Larry Donay in 1993 and became his secretary until his retirement in 2000," wrote Renate Sadger. "I loved working for Larry and will miss him very much."

Gary Morris worked for Larry at Alchem for 18 years, 16 of them as a production foreman.

"I got to know Larry quite well and enjoyed him as an employer and very nice man," he said. "I will always remember the Lake Erie Walleye fishing trips."

Heather Harvey began working at Alchem in 1997.

"I remember (Larry) as a very friendly, polite man, with a rather large heart," she said. "I respected him for his caring ways and the respect he had shown others. He was a wonderful man, and will be missed by all that were so fortunate to know him."

Larry and Nan loved to entertain.

"I loved being a part of their parties," Nicole said. "I remember going to his house after Greg would get out of work and many times making him a cocktail. He liked to drink scotch on the rocks and I'll never forget the first time I poured him one and took a sip of it. I nearly gagged. I couldn't believe anybody could drink something that tasted that bad."

One year at a Ducks Unlimited auction, Larry bought Nicole a white English Pointer puppy.

"As soon as I held this puppy I knew he had to go home with me," Nicole said. "I asked Larry to buy him for me and he told me I didn't need a darn dog — not in such a nice way, either. Our very dear friend Shirley Bailey talked him into it and his hand went up when the bidding started and I went home with this puppy, which I had no clue what to do with. This dog was one of the best friends I've ever had and we had him for 11 years."

Nicole ended her eulogy for her father-in-law by saying he "enjoyed his life immensely" and "worked very hard all of his life." She said "the last few years of Larry's life were not as he would have wanted," and said it was hard to see him so ill.

"During his last few days alive we were all praying that God would take him and let the suffering stop," she said. "I have to believe he knows we were there with him."

Nicole said after Larry died, the thing that gave her peace was her belief that he was with the two granddaughters that had gone before him.

"The first thing I thought of after he passed was that he was with Macy and Sydney, and that gives me immense comfort," she said. "I believe in my heart that he was ready to be with them for a while now."

## Alisha New

GARRETT — Alisha R. New, 17, of Garrett, died Saturday, March 10, 2007, at 5:40 p.m. in an automobile accident on C.R. 11-A in DeKalb County.

Miss New

Miss New was a junior at Garrett High School and a member of the Rhythm Connection Show Choir. She enjoyed playing softball, volleyball, soccer and basketball. She worked at Arby's in Auburn for eight months.

She was born Dec. 13, 1989, in Kendallville.

Surviving are her mother, Sharon R. New of Garrett; her father, Danny R. Rose of Emmalena, Ky; two brothers, Roger K. New of Garrett and Danny K. Rose of Emmalena, Ky.; and a sister, Angel Rose, of Emmalena, Ky.

Services will be Wednesday at 10 a.m. at the First Baptist Church in Garrett, with Pastor David Mix officiating. Burial will be in Orange Cemetery near Rome City.

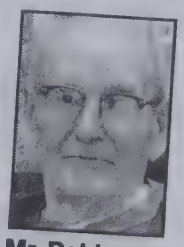
Calling will be Tuesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, and Wednesday from 9-10 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to the family.

To sign a guestbook or send a condolence, visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

## Ernest Robinson

GARRETT — Ernest M. Robinson, 83, of Paulding, Ohio, and formerly of Garrett, died Monday, March 12, 2007, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.


Mr. Robinson

Mr. Robinson retired from Gildea Tool and Die in 1984. He was a Korean War veteran, serving in the U.S. Army. He was member of the Garrett Eagles and American Legion.

He was born Oct. 15, 1923, in Walpole, Mass., to Benjamin A. and Lillian (Heselton) Robinson.

Surviving are a sister, Margery Timbrook of Fort Wayne; four nephews, Maynard Robinson of Georgia, Lynn Robinson of Garrett, Stanley Robinson of Anderson and Roger Timbrook of Fort Wayne; three nieces, Linda Engelmann of Fort Wayne, Susan Dangler of Cecil, Ohio, and Diane Farlee of Fort Wayne; and several great-nieces and great-nephews.

He was preceded in death by three brothers, Francis, Joseph and Alfred Robinson, and a sister, Edith Robinson.

Services will be Thursday at 2 p.m. in Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett. Pastor Charles F. Schmunk will officiate. Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery at St. Joe, with military graveside services conducted by the Garrett post of the American Legion.

Calling will be Thursday from noon to 2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Ronald McDonald House or Riley Hospital for Children.

To send a condolence or sign a guestbook, visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

## Dale Ackerman

HAMILTON — Dale J. Ackerman, 72, of Hamilton died Monday, March 12, 2007, at St. Joseph Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Ackerman was a member of the Hamilton United Methodist Church and was employed at Auburn Gear in Auburn for 39 years prior to his retirement.

Mr. Ackerman

He was born Nov. 24, 1934, in Waterloo to Carl and Hattie (Hofferman) Ackerman. He married Patricia Rosenberry on April 8, 1956, in Auburn and she survives.

Also surviving are a son, Gregory P. Ackerman of Hamilton; two daughters and sons-in-law, Sheli and Greg Waltenberger of Hamilton and Tami and Jeff Conley of Angola; nine grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and three sisters, Ruth Bishop, Ethel Kandel and Rosemary Peachey.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Hamilton United Methodist Church, with the Revs. Eric Stoops and Herschel Murray officiating.

Calling will be Thursday from 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. at the church.

Memorials are to Hamilton United Methodist Church or Youth for Christ.

Arrangements are being handled by Oberlin-Ford Funeral Home, Hamilton.

## Mary Targgart

WOLF LAKE — Mary Targgart, 84, died Monday, March 12, 2007, at The Laurels of DeKalb nursing home in Butler, following an extended illness.

Mrs. Targgart was a resident of Wolf Lake before entering a nursing home in Kendallville, then moving to Butler in 2004.

She volunteered at many Wolf Lake community activities, and at one time she and her husband were grand marshals of Onion Days in Wolf Lake.

Mrs. Targgart was a graduate of Kendallville High School with the class of 1940, and was an accomplished art instructor in painting. She was active in the Christ Child Festival and loved all sports.

She was born Aug. 15, 1922, in Kendallville to George and Alice (Owens) Ananias. She married Dae Targgart in 1944 in El Paso, Texas. He died April 17, 1999.

Surviving are two brothers, Basil "Bill" Ananias of Spokane, Wash., and John Ananias of Albion; her stepmother, Sophia Ananias of Kendallville; three half sisters, Helen Bowersock of Kendallville, Angela Benschneider of Fort Wayne and Alexandria Kales of Elgin, Ill.; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by two sisters, Martha Rawles and Connie Bowden.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday in Sheets and Childs Funeral Home at Churubusco. Pastor Dan Carlson will officiate. Burial will be in Christian Chapel Cemetery at Merriam.

Calling will be from 9-11 a.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Condolences are to sympathy@sheetsandchilds.net.

## Judy Schimpf

BUTLER — Judy E. Schimpf, 63, of Butler died Monday, March 12, 2007, at her home.

Mrs. Schimpf was employed at Knisely Bank in Butler for more than 31 years, serving as a computer operator in the bookkeeping department.

She was a member of the Butler Eagles and the Butler Church of Christ and was the current president of the Butler American Legion Women's Auxiliary,

She was born Dec. 15, 1943, in Butler to Richard and Helen (Phiester) Roan. They preceded her in death.

Her husband, William "Bill" Schimpf, died Jan. 11, 1999.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Noah and Bridget Schimpf of Auburn; a daughter and son-in-law, Jolene and Tim Kaiser of Butler; two grandchildren, Dereck and Dominic; a brother, Richard Roan of Winston-Salem, N.C.; and two stepsons, David Schimpf of Lake Worth, Fla., and William Schimpf of Waterloo.

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. in H.E. Johnson & Son Funeral Home, Butler, with Pastor Todd Steere officiating. Burial will be in Butler Cemetery.

Calling will be today from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Butler American Legion Scholarship Fund.

To leave condolences and view a video tribute, visit www.hejohnsonfh.com.

## Daniel McCoy

MONROEVILLE — Daniel H. McCoy, 78, of Monroeville died Wednesday, March 14, 2007, at 3:50 p.m. at Lutheran Hospital of Indiana.

Mr. McCoy retired Jan. 1, 1990, from Freuhauf Drive-A-Way as a mechanic. He also worked for the State Detective Agency assigned to Do It Best and has worked at Giradot's Standard for more than 20 years.

He was a member of the Monroeville Volunteer Fire Department, I.V.F.A. Association and Local 414 Teamsters of Indiana.

He was born June 22, 1928, in Monroeville to James F. McCoy and Velma L. (Fuelling). They preceded him in death.

He married Jennie L. Carr on June 21, 1947, and she survives.

Also surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Pam and Earl Johnson of Decatur; a son and daughter-in-law, Bruce D. and Kathy McCoy of Auburn; a sister, Norma Witte of Antwerp, Ohio; a daughter-in-law, Peggy McCoy of Monroeville; six grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a son, Timothy J. McCoy, in 1990 and a grandson, David Johnson.

Services will be Saturday at 3 p.m. in Zwick and Jahn Funeral Home, Jacobs Chapel, Monroeville. Burial will be in Monroeville Memorial Cemetery.

Calling will be Saturday from 1-3 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Monroeville Fire Department.

Condolences may be left at www.zwickjahn.com.

## Howard McDaniel

AUBURN — Howard W. McDaniel, 81, of Auburn died Friday, March 16, 2007, at St. Joseph Hospital in Fort Wayne, with his wife and family at his side.

Mr. McDaniel was an insurance manager for Farm Bureau in Auburn for 33 years, retiring in 1990.

Mr. McDaniel

He was in the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps for 11 years, serving in World War II and Korea.

A Ball State University graduate, he earned his degree in speech and hearing. He was a member of the Auburn First United Methodist Church, the Auburn Masonic Lodge, Fort Wayne Scottish Rite, Auburn American Legion Post 97 and the Hoosier Warbirds.

He enjoyed the outdoors and loved gardening, hunting, fishing, snowmobiling and spending time with his family.

He was born Nov. 10, 1925, in Garrett to Bert and Audry (Allomong) McDaniel. They preceded him in death.

He married Donna Bassett in Auburn on Oct. 27, 1949, and she survives.

Also surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Steven and Natalie McDaniel of Auburn and Shawn and Cary McDaniel of Waterloo; two daughters and sons-in-law, Sherrie and Ted Lash of Auburn and Susan and Brent Bacon of Ashley; 13 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by two sisters, Cleta Grandstaff and Isabell Romy; two brothers, Emery McDaniel and Dwight McDaniel; and a grandson, Beau Bacon.

Services will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. in Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. The Rev. Ted Jansen and the Rev. Wilbur Yates will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn, with military graveside services by American Legion Post 97.

Calling will be Monday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Auburn First United Methodist Church, the Hoosier Air Museum or the DeKalb Athletic Department.

## Harry Moeller

FORT WAYNE — Harry Moeller, 85, of Fort Wayne died Friday morning, March 16, 2007, at Hickory Creek Nursing Home in Hicksville, Ohio.

Arrangements are pending at Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home in Spencerville.

## Dorothy Webb

WOLCOTTVILLE — Dorothy M. Webb, 83, of Wolcottville died Thursday, March 15, 2007, at Shepherd of the Hill Nursing Home in Kendallville.

She served as the Farmer and Springfield Township trustee from 1978-1995 and was a former director of the LaGrange County Council on Aging.

She was a member of the Plato Methodist Church, Eagles Lodge in Kendallville, LaGrange American Legion Auxiliary and the LaGrange County Farm Bureau.

She married Hubert S. "Tex" Dillard on June 20, 1950, in Danville, Texas. He died April 19, 1971. She married Walter L. "Butch" Webb on June 17, 1972, in Auburn. He survives.

She was born on Nov. 9, 1933, in LaGrange to Charles A. and Isabelle (Stasell) Kohn. Both are deceased.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by a stepson, Kyle D. Dillard of Lufkin, Texas; two sisters, Esther Tjarks of LaGrange and Cora A. Smolinski of Kendallville; two stepgrandchildren; and three stepgreat-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents and first husband, she was preceded in death by a sister, Rita K. Kohn; a brother, George C. Kohn; a nephew, Richard Tjarks; and a niece, Susanne Pheiffer.

Services are Wednesday at 11 a.m. at Frurip-May Funeral Home, 309 W. Michigan St., LaGrange, with the Revs. Russell Hepler and Carldean Merrifield officiating. Burial is in Greenwood Cemetery in LaGrange.

Calling is Wednesday from 10 to 11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Parkview Home Health & Hospice or Shepherd of the Hill Nursing Home.

Condolences may be sent to www.fruripmayfuneral-home.com.

The EVENING STAR
Marc 2007 Auburn, Indiana
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# Real character was man of character

BY VIV ROSSWURM
vivianr@kpcnews.net

WATERLOO — When you mention Bobby L. "BL" Albright to most people, including members of his own family, the words "a character" usually spring into the conversation. "Mischievous," will follow.

Though her father was a decorated war hero who loved his country, Joni Albright said her father would have been pleased that the pastor managed to sneak an anti-(Iraq)war comment into Bob Albright's eulogy at his funeral on Feb. 23.

Bob Albright was 81 when he died Feb. 20 at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn. Always deeply involved with his family, his neighborhood, his community, his country and the world at large, Albright left quite a legacy.

A World War II Army veteran, he received a Bronze Star for Heroic Achievement for helping save the lives of his comrades during the invasion of Leyte in the Philippine Islands. When their boat was shelled and began to sink, Bob Albright took off his life jacket and placed it on an injured man, while helping two others to safety.

He was also the recipient of the Victory Medal, a Purple Heart for wounds received in action and an Air Medal for action that saved lives when a U.S. tank was blown up and the soldiers inside were injured.

Besides the Philippines, Albright also served in New Guinea and on the Japanese mainland.

## A diehard I.U. fan

When Albright returned to the U.S., he was not yet 21. After fighting and nearly dying for his country, he could not legally go into a bar and drink a beer. That was always a great source of entertainment to him, his wife of 58 years, Vereda, remembers with a laugh.

Albright married Vereda Boman on June 5, 1948, and they moved to Bloomington, where he earned a business degree from Indiana University.

"It was all G.I.s where we lived, and what fun we had," Vereda said.

From Bloomington, the Albrights settled down in Waterloo, where they would raise their five children — Joni, Ellen, Brian, Lee and Adam. Bob Albright got season tickets to I.U. football and basketball in 1968 and almost every weekend for 25 years found the couple — and later, their children — in Bloomington.

"We never got to retire and go live in Florida like everyone else, because we attended I.U. games every weekend," Vereda Albright said.

Three of their five children attended college. All three attended I.U.

At Bob Albright's funeral, the chosen music was the I.U. fight song.

Vereda's relatives, from Ohio, all wore Ohio State T-shirts to the funeral dinner, "knowing that Bob was looking down and having a good laugh," she said.

Mr. Albright

Bob Albright was politically astute and a proud Democrat according to his eldest daughter, Joni Albright, who has worked for three Democratic governors' administrations in Indianapolis.

"Dad had strong opinions and values, but was non-judgmental," Joni Albright said. Her father often joked about being a Democrat in heavily Republican DeKalb County, she said.

"I raised my kids to be I.U. fans, Cubs fans and Democrats," Joni Albright quotes her father as often saying. "It's a wonder they have any self-esteem at all," Bob Albright would joke.

## Living life to the fullest

Albright was born to Howard "Doc" and Jessie Lower Albright in DeKalb County on May 28, 1925, graduating from Waterloo High School in 1943.

There was no place he would rather raise his family than in the community he had grown to love.

With his father-in-law, he formed Boman and Albright, a fuel oil distributorship. The family business expanded into Hoosier Propane, L&L Leasing, Domex Inc., DeKalb Oil and Sulpher Springs Agra. He retired at age 59.

He was always low-key and did not like to be the center of attention. But he became well-known to everyone on his oil delivery routes and was especially popular with the kids, who knew "Mr. Albright" always carried candy to hand out to every child he met. Many adults would prepare coffee and invite him into their homes when he arrived to deliver their oil.

Library clerks knew Bob Albright well. He considered libraries to be a source of an inexpensive higher education.

"He would bring home bags of books at a time and pore through them and take all of us kids to the library and help us pick out books," Joni Albright remembers.

Linda Dunn, 15-year director of the Waterloo Public Library, where Albright served on the board for two decades, said he was a wonderful person whom everyone enjoyed being around.

*"He was a poster child of the World War II generation."*

Vereda Albright
Describing the late Bob Albright

"He was a true library advocate," Dunn said. "I was very cautious when we first heard of the Internet. But Bob, who spoke his mind and was very much in touch with the future, urged us to move forward" and get the computers and Internet service.

"And he was just a lot of fun," Dunn added.

"He taught his children how to be politically aware liberal Democrats, patriotic, respectful of the environment, how to fish and vote, and the location of good restaurants," Joni Albright wrote in her father's obituary. He took the family on a 10-day camping trip every year, often in Michigan.

All five of the Albright children grew up and chose careers in communications.

## Community activist

Although he was a quiet community volunteer, Bob Albright's actions spoke loudly. He served as a volunteer firefighter, Pony League coach, Boy Scout leader and member of the Lions Club, the Masonic Temple, Knights of Pythias, Waterloo Veterans of Foreign Wars and DeKalb Disabled Veterans. He was president of the Waterloo Cemetery Board. He served on the DeKalb County Election Board and as president of the Waterloo Grant Township Library Board and was the social concerns chair of the Waterloo United Methodist Church.

He helped build and maintain the Waterloo Little League field and association, where generations of children have participated in sports.

Bob and Vereda Albright ran a household that just naturally attracted others.

"We always had a house full of kids, ours and everyone else's," Vereda Albright said. "Bob loved that. He enjoyed coming home to a full house."

When he knew someone could use a hand, he quietly figured out a way to help them, usually anonymously, Vereda Albright said. He wanted no recognition for his deeds, which included driving veterans afflicted with cancer to area hospitals in Columbus, Ohio, and Marion for treatment.

"We always felt very blessed," said Vereda Albright. "We were successful and Bob wanted to help others who were having a hard time. He was a poster child of the World War II generation."

## Harry Moeller

FORT WAYNE — Pastor Harry Moeller, 85, died Friday morning, March 16, 2007, at Hickory Creek Nursing Home in Hicksville, Ohio.

He attended Swatek Ridge grade school and two years of high school in Eastman, Wis., and enlisted in the Navy at the age of 18. He served in World War II on the USS Patoka and USS Wharton. After six years in the Navy, he returned to Eastman, where he farmed and was a wood cutter.

He attended revival meetings at the Eastman E.U.B. Church and turned his life over to the Lord. He later completed his GED and studied for the ministry at Miltonvale Wesleyan College in Miltonvale, Kan., where he met his wife, Edna. While living in Wisconsin, he and his wife served as a foster family for five mentally retarded children for eight years.

He was student pastor in Kansas, pastor for Hoyne Avenue Wesleyan Methodist Church in Chicago for eight years, and pioneered a new church in his hometown of Eastman, Wis., in 1959, where he served for 12 years. During that time, the congregation grew to 200 members and a new brick church was built, along with a five-bedroom parsonage.

He served three years at Mishawaka Wesleyan Church in Mishawaka, and three years at Bryant Wesleyan Church in Bryant.

Following retirement from ministry, he worked as a counselor for a work release program at the Fort Wayne YMCA with prisoners transitioning back into the community. He also retired from the Fort Wayne Veterans Administration Hospital in 1987. He served as a custodian at Trinity Nazarene Church for several years, manually moving five acres of grass when he was in his late 70s.

Mr. Moeller was born July 13, 1921, in Crawford County, Wis., to August and Anna (Zlabek) Moeller.

He married Edna Anne Winterberg on Aug. 21, 1948, in the Rockford, Ill., Methodist Church. She survives in Hicksville, Ohio.

Also surviving are four daughters and sons-in-law, Linda and John Tuttle of Batesville, Esther and George Vorndran of Fort Wayne, Martha and Carl Kreighbaum of Spring Hill, Tenn., and Lois and Gene Stauffer of Spencerville; 11 grandchildren; 11 great grandchildren; and three sisters, Marie Hill of Madison, Wis., Helen Foley of Dodgeville, Wis., and Gladys Rienks of Edwardsburg, Mich..

He was preceded in death by two brothers, Willard and Raymond Moeller; a sister, Betty Ann Moeller; and a grandson, Nathan Tuttle.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Monday at Carnahan-Baidinger and Walter Funeral Home in Spencerville, with Pastor Rex Person officiating. Burial will be in Concordia Gardens Cemetery in Fort Wayne.

Calling will be from 2-5 p.m. Sunday and from 9-10 a.m. Monday at Carnahan-Baidinger and Walter Funeral Home in Spencerville.

Memorials are to missionary friends of the family, Joe and Pat Laraker, c/o West Indies Self Help Benevolence Fund, P.O. Box 365, Grand Haven, MI 49417-0365.

## Kimberly Hartman

CORUNNA — Kimberly D. (Lockwood) Hartman, 39, of Corunna died Saturday, March 17, 2007, at her home.

Mrs. Hartman

Mrs. Hartman was a first-grade teacher and literacy coordinator during a 16-year career at North Side Elementary School in Kendallville. She graduated from DeKalb High School in 1985, from Butler University in 1989 and from Purdue University in 2001. She earned a master's degree from Indiana Wesleyan University in 2004. She was a member of the East Noble Educators Association and Delta Kappa Gamma. She belonged to the Helmer United Methodist Church. She loved her family and friends and enjoyed scrapbooking.

She was born March 30, 1967, in Auburn to Larry and Jan Lockwood. They survive in Auburn.

Also surviving are her husband, Greg S. Hartman of Corunna; two daughters, Bailey C. Hartman and Allyson N. Hartman, and a son, Andrew S. Hartman, all of Corunna; a sister and brother-in-law, Bill and Lisa Clifford of Auburn; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Doug and Angie Lockwood of Auburn and Greg and Niki Lockwood of Kokomo; her paternal grandfather, Bernard Lockwood of Garrett; and her maternal grandmother, Evelyn Walter of Auburn.

Services wil be Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. at the Auburn Church of the Nazarene. Burial will be in Fairfield Center Cemetery in rural Corunna.

Calling will be Tuesday from 2-9 p.m. and Wednesday from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to scholarships for her children.

McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home of Auburn is handling arrangements.

## Willie Belcher

KENDALLVILLE — Willie George Belcher, 52, of Kendallville died in a single-car accident on Saturday, March 17, 2007, on U.S. 6 near Wawaka.

Mr. Belcher

He was born in Earling, W.Va., on Dec. 16, 1954, to Omer F. and Thelma L. (Browning) Belcher. He married Deanna Kay Gibson on Aug. 3, 1974, in Kendallville. She survives.

Also surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Suzette and Eric Stitt of Waterloo and Joyce and Jamie Hall of Kendallville; three brothers and a sister-in-law, Sonny Belcher of Corunna, Jack Belcher of Waterloo and Robert and Brenda Belcher of West Virginia; four sisters and brothers-in-law, Alice and Andy Messer of West Virginia, Lena and Kern Collins of Kendallville, Beatrice and Ben Hurd of Wabash and Barbara and Eddie McDonald of Kendallville; a brother-in-law and his wife, Tolbert and Mary Gibson of Kendallville; a sister-in-law and her husband, Barbara and Homer Ferrell of Kendallville; a half sister and her husband, Mary and Alex Karst of Kendallville; and six grandchildren, Michael and Tyler McClelland of Waterloo, McKenzie Ritter of Waterloo and Shawn, Ethan and Nathan Hall of Kendallville.

He was preceded in death by parents and a brother, Bunny Belcher.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at the True Church of God In Jesus' Name in Lisbon with the Rev. Sonny Stanley officiating. Burial will be at Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville.

Calling after 2 p.m. today at the church.

Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville is in charge of arrangements.

Condolences may be sent online to www.hitefuneralhome.com.

## Wanda Sexton

AUBURN — Wanda R. Sexton, 83, of Auburn died Sunday, March 18, 2007, at her home.

Mrs. Sexton was a homemaker. She was a member of the Millstone Missionary Baptist Church in Millstone, Ky., and the Freewill Baptist Church in Waterloo.

She was born Nov. 25, 1983, in Knott County, Ky., to Taylor and Madae (Huff) Watson.

She married Denver Sexton on Aug. 24, 1942, in Slone Fork in Knott County, Ky., He preceded her in death.

Surviving are three daughters, Patricia Anne Sanders of Conyers, Ga., Phyllis Joan Sexton of Lexington, Ky., and Wilma Jean Campbell of Auburn; three sons, Marlin Sexton of Parsons, W.Va., Gary Sexton of Ermine, Ky., and Anthony Sexton of South Milford; 14 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents and husband, two sons, Lyle Dean Sexton and Carl Edwards Sexton, a daughter, Brenda Faye Sexton, three sistes, Gladys Slone, Juanita Jacobs and Aggie Watson, and one brother, Eddie Watson.

Services will Tuesday at 6 p.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St, Waterloo. Ron Stambaugh will officiate.

Calling will be Tuesday from 4-6 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home.

Additional services will be Thursday at 2 p.m. at Letcher Funeral Home in Whitesburg, Ky. Bill Craft will officiate.

Calling will be Thursday from noon to 2 p.m. at Letcher Funeral Home.

Burial will be in Green Acres Cemetery at Ermine, Ky.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Cancer Society.

## Jack Rennwald

WATERLOO — Jack L. Rennwald, 66, of Waterloo died Sunday, March 18, 2007, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Rennwald

Mr. Rennwald worked at Quality Kitchen and Ball Brass & Aluminum Foundry, both in Auburn. He was a member of the Loyal Order of Moose 556 in Auburn. He loved watching basketball and fishing.

He was born Jan. 9, 1941, in Kendallville. His parents, Karl Rennwald and Thelma (Kline) Whetsel, preceded him in death.

He married Sharon G. Yarian on Aug. 1, 1964, in Auburn. She survives.

Also surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Jackie and Raymond Love of Hudson and Teresa and Thomas Hire of Corunna; a brother and sister-in-law, John and Daisy Rennwald of Beaufort, N.C.; 10 grandchildren, Joshua and Rose Love, Ashley Love, Ty Bienz, Brock Bienz, Jacqueline Bienz, Stefany Bienz, Ericka Bienz, Kayla Hire, Zachary Hire and Cassidy Hire.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Debbie Rennwald Bienz.

Services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. The Rev. Ralph Diehl will officiate. Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery.

Calling will be Tuesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family.

## Martin Rynders

FORT WAYNE — Martin Rynders, 91, of Fort Wayne died Saturday, March 17, 2007, at Heritage Park Nursing Home.

Mr. Rynders retired in 1977 after 29 years of service as a car inspector for the Pennsylvania Railroad. He loved harmonizing with a barber shop quartet, golfing and quilting. He was a member of the Society for the Preservation and Enjoyment of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America.

He was born Sept. 8, 1915, in Chicago.

Surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Robert M. and Pam Rynders of Fort Wayne and William R. Moore of Auburn; two daughters and sons-in-law, Martha I. and Christian Nordlin of Fort Wayne and Sally M. and Craig Thompson of Hudson; nine grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, one brother and three sisters.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Lyda J., in 1961; his second wife, Lucile M., in 1997; and a daughter, Betty McCormick, in 2004.

Services will be Tuesday at noon in Hockemeyer & Miller Funeral Home, 6131 St. Joe Road, Fort Wayne. Burial will be in Greenlawn Memorial Park.

Calling will be today from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. and Tuesday from 11 a.m. to noon at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America.

## H. Dean Luke

ASHLEY — H. Dean "Dean the Drycleaner" Luke, 77, of Ashley and Sarasota, Fla., died Monday, March 19, 2007, at Sarasota Memorial Hospital in Sarasota.

Mr. Luke worked for Star Drycleaners in Kendallville for many years, then worked for Pent Products for 15 years, retiring in 1991.

He was a U.S. Army veteran, serving from 1954-56 in Germany.

He was a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church in rural Waterloo and the Waterloo post of Veterans of Foreign Wars. He enjoyed woodworking and loved the time he spent in Florida.

He was born April 29, 1929, in Richland Township of DeKalb County to Harold and Audra (Gurtner) Luke. His father preceded him in death. His mother survives in Kendallville.

He married Isabelle Miller on July 12, 1975, in Rome City. She survives.

Also surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Cozy and Jerry Watschke of Hackensack, Minn.; a stepdaughter and her husband, Ann and Rick Crummett of Waterloo; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Robert and Kathryn Luke of Fort Wayne and George and Barbara Luke of Albuquerque, N.M.; a sister and brother-in-law, Marilyn and Hock Buckley of Quincy, Mich.; 10 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a stepson, Joseph Williams, and a brother, Martin Luke.

Services are pending at Feller Funeral Home of Waterloo. Burial will be in St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery in rural Waterloo.

## Calvin Harvey

AUBURN — Calvin C. Harvey, 83, of Auburn died Tuesday, March 20, 2007, at the Laurels of DeKalb Nursing Home in Butler.

Mr. Harvey

Mr. Harvey worked at General Electric in Decatur and at Winter Street and Taylor Street and Broadway in Fort Wayne for 43 years, retiring in 1986. He then worked as a service clerk at Scott's Food Store in Auburn for 14 years until 2003.

He was a World War II Army veteran, serving in England at the 187th General Hospital from March 1943 to April 1946.

He was a member of the Garrett United Methodist Church, where he volunteered for many years with the Community Care Food Bank. He was a member of the GE Quarter Century Club, a lifetime member of American Legion Post 240 of Avilla, a board member of Christian Union Cemetery and enjoyed bowling, playing pool, traveling and spending time with his grandchildren, great-grandchildren and many friends.

He was born Jan. 17, 1924, in Adams County to Cecil E. and Bertha (Drummond) Harvey. They preceded him in death.

He married Maxine E. Leiter on July 24, 1948, in Garrett, and she survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Jonathan D. and Lori Harvey of Albion; a daughter and son-in-law, Susan J. and Paul Culler of Helmer, a brother and sister-in-law, Richard and Lois Harvey of Decatur; three sisters and brothers-in-law, Naomi and Morris Krueckeberg of Decatur, Gladys and Robert Braden of Decatur and Betty and Joshua Zurcher of Monroe; two sisters-in-law, Ruth Harvey and Bernita Harvey, both of Decatur; five grandsons and their wives, Eric and Kim Culler, Randy and Stefanie Harvey, Jedd and Jenny Culler, Tim Harvey and Reid and Heather Culler; six great-grandchildren, Garrett Culler, Jenna Culler, Hanna Harvey, Gavin Culler, Haylee Harvey and Hayden Culler; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by three sisters, Helen Harvey, Roseanna Harvey and Mabel Cook, and three brothers, Bryce, William and Robert Harvey.

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. in the Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with Dr. Scott Shoaff officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery of Garrett.

Calling will be Thursday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. and Friday from 10-11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Alzheimer's Association.

# Longtime Noble County official John Schermerhorn, 88, dies

WAWAKA — John H. "Stub" Schermerhorn, 88, of Wawaka, a longtime Noble County government official, died Wednesday, March 21, 2007, at North Ridge Village Nursing & Rehab Center in Albion.

**Mr. Schermerhorn**

Mr. Schermerhorn spent his entire life on the family farm in Orange Township where he farmed and sold agriculture seed.

Mr. Schermerhorn was an active member of the Noble County Republican Party and a longtime member of the Noble County Fair Board and the Noble County Farm Bureau Co-Op. He was elected to serve on the Noble County Council from 1951-62 and on the Noble County Board of Commissioners from 1965-76.

He was a member of Brimfield United Methodist Church where he served as superintendent of the Sunday school and as a trustee.

He loved attending family activities, spending time with his coffee shop friends and talking and visiting with people. He and his wife, Mary, enjoyed traveling with their dear friends, Harold and Virginia Frick.

Mr. Schermerhorn loved nature and the outdoors and enjoyed hunting, fishing and trapping and had a great love of sports.

He was born in Orange Township, Noble County, on Oct. 31, 1918, to John M. Sr. and Edna (Miller) Schermerhorn. He graduated from Rome City High School in 1936 and attended the University of Wisconsin in Madison to study an agriculture short course.

He married Mary A. Gilbert on Dec. 3, 1939, in Elkhart Township. She survives in Wawaka.

Also surviving are three sons and daughters-in-law, Roger and Paula Schermerhorn of Ligonier, J. David and Sue Ann Schermerhorn of Sylvan Lake, Rome City, and Larry and Becky Schermerhorn of Wawaka; two daughters and sons-in-law, Judy and Jerry Cunningham of Ligonier and Mary Jean and Roy Brostrand of Atlanta, Ga.; a sister, Mary Stevens of Angola; 19 grandchildren; and 31 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Robert W. Schermerhorn, who died in World War II; a sister, Margaret McWilliams; and a great-granddaughter.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Monday at Brimfield United Methodist Church with Pastor Maureen Mauzy and the Rev. Omer Nisley officiating. Burial will be in Orange Cemetery near Rome City. Pallbearers will be Gregg Cunningham, Tim Schermerhorn, Mark Schermerhorn, Tom Schermerhorn, Dave Schermerhorn, Nate Schermerhorn, Andrew Brostrand, John Michael Schermerhorn and Jeff Schermerhorn.

Calling will be from 1-8 p.m. Sunday at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville.

Memorials are to the John and Mary Schermerhorn Memorial Scholarship in care of the Noble County Community Foundation or the Brimfield United Methodist Church.

View a video tribute by Friday or send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

## Eleanor Borton

EDON, Ohio — Eleanor L. Borton, 71, of Edon, Ohio, died at 1:25 a.m. Thursday, March 22, 2007, at Lutheran Hospital of Fort Wayne, where she was admitted earlier in the week.

Mrs. Borton was a graduate of Garrett High School. She was a member of the Edon Church of Christ and formerly served as its Sunday school treasurer. She was employed over the years by Burkhardt Grocery, Wolff Tractor Sales and Dr. Stokes.

She was born Feb. 17, 1936, in Garrett to Charles Raymond and Frances Alice (Lasch) Newman.

She married Kenneth V. Borton on Dec. 29, 1954, in Garrett. He survives.

Also surviving are a daughter, Karen Borton of Edon, Ohio, two sons and daughters-in-law, Jerry and Joan Borton, of Souderton, Pa., and Eric and Bobbi Borton of Holiday City, Ohio; three granddaughters, Desiree, Jennalee and Nikki; one great-grandson, Elijah; and two sisters, Naomi George of Auburn and Marjorie Powell of Bluffton.

She was preceded in death by one son, Steven, in 1957 and two brothers.

A memorial service will be Saturday at 2 p.m. in the Edon Church of Christ with minister Glenn Anderson officiating.

Calling will be Saturday from 1-2 p.m. at the church.

Memorials are to Joni and Friends, P.O. Box 64085, Souderton, PA 18964.

Condolences may be sent and the online register may be signed at www.krillfuneralservice.com.

## James Nelson

KENDALLVILLE — James L. "Handy Man" Nelson, 62, died Tuesday, March 20, 2007, at Parkview Noble Hospital in Kendallville.

A native of Fort Wayne, Mr. Nelson was employed with Silgan Plastics in the warehouse for 14 1/2 years.

He was a member of VFW Post 10006 in Fort Wayne and the American Philatelic Society.

He will be remembered as an honest, hard-working, loving man who always provided for his family.

Surviving are his wife, Barbara L. Nelson of Kendallville; his children, Gregg Nelson of Fort Wayne, Jeffrey and Gina Nelson of Garrett, Bryan and Sissy Nelson of Helenwood, Tenn., Tonya and Jared Miller of Richmond, Kathryne and Chris Monteith of Albion, and Daniel Nelson of Kendallville; two stepsons, Micheal Altevogt of Fort Wayne and Christopher and Amber Altevogt of Yoder; a sister and brother-in-law, Becky and Ted Best of Fort Wayne; a brother, Herb Honness of Toledo, Ohio; 31 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at D.O. McComb & Sons Lakeside Park Funeral Home, 1140 Lake Ave. Burial will be in Lindenwood Cemetery with military graveside honors by VFW Post 10006.

Calling will be from noon to 5 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Red Cross Pheresis Department.

## Bonnie Temple

KENDALLVILLE — Bonnie Lou Temple, 67, of Kendallville died Thursday, March 22, 2007, at her home with her family by her side.

Mrs. Temple was dedicated to her family as a homemaker and enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren and her pets.

Mrs. Temple

She was an avid collector of antiques, loved to tend to her flower garden and go shopping. She also enjoyed making crafts and motorcycling with her husband.

Mrs. Temple was a member of Trinity Church United Methodist in Kendallville.

She graduated from DeKalb High School in 1958.

She was born in Auburn on Feb. 17, 1940, and raised by John L. and Esther Louise (Lindsey) Smith. She married Sanders Edwin Temple Jr. on Feb. 6, 1965. He survives in Kendallville.

Also surviving are her mother, Esther Smith of Garrett; four daughters and two sons-in-law, Kimberly Forker of Rome City, Kristin Davidson and Annette and Terry Donat, all of Kendallville, and Sandra and Fred Barkey of Bowling Green, Ky.; two sons and daughters-in-law Kirk and Krystal Temple and Walter and Mary Temple, all of Kendallville; a daughter-in-law, Dyanne Temple-Barksdale of Athens, Ala.; two sisters, Betty Squire of Angola and Connie Short and Herb Cady of Houston, Texas; a brother and sister-in-law, Ron "Joe" and Chris Smith of Garrett; 19 grandchildren, four great-grandchildren; a great-great-granddaughter; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her father, John L. Smith in 1990, and two sons, Aaron Temple on July 10, 1965, and David Temple on Sept. 13, 1979.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Tuesday at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville with Pastor Jim Lilley officiating.

Burial will be at Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville. Pallbearers will be Derek Davidson, Dustin Forker, Jason Temple, Kamron Temple, Brandon Donat, Thomas Barkey and Devin Cain.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Monday at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society.

View a video tribute by Saturday or send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

## H. Dean Luke

ASHLEY — H. Dean "Dean the Drycleaner" Luke, 77, of Ashley and Arcadia, Fla., died Monday, March 19, 2007, at Sarasota Memorial Hospital in Sarasota.

Mr. Luke was the owner and operator of Star Drycleaners in Kendallville for many years, then worked for Pent Products for 15 years, retiring in 1991.

He was a U.S. Army veteran, serving from 1954-56 in Germany.

He was a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church in rural Waterloo and the Waterloo post of Veterans of Foreign Wars. He enjoyed woodworking and loved the time he spent in Florida.

He was born April 29, 1929, in Richland Township of DeKalb County to Harold and Audra (Gurtner) Luke. His father preceded him in death. His mother survives in Kendallville.

He married Isabelle Miller on July 12, 1975, in Rome City. She survives.

Also surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Cosy and Jerry Watschke of Hackensack, Minn.; a stepdaughter and her husband, Ann and Rick Crummett of Waterloo; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Robert and Kathryn Luke of Fort Wayne and George and Barbara Luke of Albuquerque, N.M.; a sister and brother-in-law, Marilyn and Hock Buckley of Quincy, Mich.; 10 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a stepson, Joseph Williams, and a brother, Martin Luke.

Services will be Monday at 11 a.m. at St. Michael's Catholic Church in rural Waterloo, with Father David Carkenord officiating. Burial will be in St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery in rural Waterloo.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-6 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, and Monday from 10-11 a.m. at the church.

A rosary service will begin at 6 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Masses at the church.

# Dale Ackerman lived simple life of faith

*"Make a joyful noise unto the lord, all the earth; make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise."*
**— Psalms 98:4, King James Bible**

**BY JAMIE LEMKE-BARRAND**
jamiel@kpcnews.net

HAMILTON — Dale Ackerman was a man of great faith, and he used his booming singing voice to show it.

"He loved to play the keyboard and sing at home, and I loved to listen to him do it," said Pat, Dale's wife of nearly 51 years.

Dale was a faithful, longtime member of the Hamilton United Methodist Church, where he sang in the choir.

"He just loved to sing, and he would work really diligently to do his part well," said Donna Hamman, the Hamilton UMC Choir director. "You knew he loved the Lord by the way he projected himself."

Dale and Pat met when she was 15 and she was 18. Pat grew up in the small town of Moore, which is situated between Auburn and Butler. When Pat was a teenager, free movies would be shown downtown there every Monday night.

"We were all lined up waiting for the show. He was there with his friends, he saw me and he said, 'that's my girl right there,'" Pat said with a smile in her voice.

A couple of years later, Pat and Dale were married. They had three children, nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

A bout with polio at the age of 14 left Dale's health compromised for the rest of his life. Walking any distance was difficult for him, and his breathing was often labored.

His poor health made it difficult for Dale to travel, and he and Pat rarely ventured far from Hamilton. The only vacation the couple ever took, Pat said, was to Branson, Mo. to watch one of their grandsons play in a sports tournament.

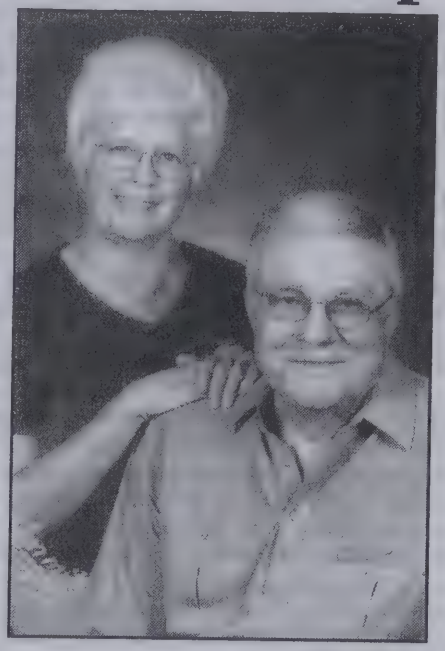


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Dale Ackerman is pictured with his wife, Pat.**

But neither of them ever felt like they'd missed anything.

"We had a wonderful life together," Pat said contentedly. "He enjoyed doing the yard work and I'd clean up his messes. He loved the Lord. He loved his kids and grandkids."

And he was involved in their lives.

"He was always watching the grandkids in their sports or whatever they did," Pat said.

Pat said that Dale was able to watch his grandchildren play sports was a blessing, as his polio ended his being able to play.

Dale's hobbies included fishing and making cracker jack. He had a cat, Taffy, who he loved.

Dale was also an avid woodworker. Some of his creations adorn the walls in the Hamilton UMC fellowship hall.

As he got older, Dale's health worsened. He would sometimes talk about quitting the church choir, which both his wife and director refused to let him do.

"I'd tell him the Lord gave him a beautiful voice and he needed to use it," Pat said.

When Dale could no longer stand to sing with the choir, he bought a stool and sat.

"We'd say, 'Dale, we need you,' and he'd get his stool and get up there," Donna said.

Three days before his death, Dale underwent routine surgery to remove his gallbladder at a local hospital. Doctors suspected he had suffered a mild heart attack and transferred him to St. Joseph Hospital in Fort Wayne, where it was discovered his lungs had given out and he had sustained severe heart damage.

Unable to physically handle any more surgery, Dale and his family decided to let nature take its course.

Dale smoked for a long time, Pat said. He quit 11 years ago, but realized it hadn't been good for his health.

"He was always telling the kids they needed to get off the cigarettes," Pat said. "He was telling them that on his deathbed. He was giving advice right up until the end."

The Hamilton UMC Choir takes a break from January to April, and Donna said Dale's absence will be greatly felt when the group reconvenes.

"I just don't know how that's going to go," she said. "We loved Dale so much, and we're sure going to miss him. There's sure going to be a big void."

When Dale slipped away, Pat, and a group of 11 of their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren were gathered at his bedside.

"The grandkids would say, 'I love you, Grandpa,' and he'd mouth it right back to them and try to smile," Pat said. "He's where he wants to be. He's at peace."

## Adeline Reedy

ROME CITY — Adeline Veronica Reedy, 81, of Rome City died Sunday, March 25, 2007, at Parkview Noble Hospital in Kendallville.

Mrs. Reedy was born in South Bend on Aug. 20, 1925, to Stanley and Cecilia (Zelasko) Golichowski.

She graduated from Washington High School in South Bend in 1943 and married Lawrence J. Reedy on July 21, 1945, in Elkhart. Her husband preceded her death in May 1997.

She was employed with Durakool Inc. of Elkhart for 36 years and was a member of New Hope Christian Center in Waterloo where, in the latter part of her life, she was involved with her church friends and Bible study.

She loved to watch sports of all kinds and was a very good bowler. She enjoyed gardening, cleaning her home and was a good cook. She also loved spending time with her grandchildren and doing crossword puzzles.

Surviving are a son, Richard Reedy of Ann Arbor, Mich.; two daughters and sons-in-law, Pamela and George Miller of Fort Wayne and Donna and Craig Anderson of Elkhart; a sister and brother-in-law, Henrietta and Joseph Grohowski of South Bend; a brother, Stanley Golichowski of Portage, Mich.; five grandchildren, Todd Ernsberger and Brian Ernsberger, both of Fort Wayne, Amy Cartegena and Michael Anderson, both of Elkhart, and Donald Miller of Avilla; and four great-grandchildren, Kayla Ernsberger of Kendallville and Mali Contreras, Erika Cartegena and Giovanni Cartegena, all of Elkhart.

She was also preceded in death by her parents and a brother, Richard Golichowski.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Friday at New Hope Christian Center, Waterloo, with Pastor Ralph Diehl officiating. Burial will be at Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville. Pallbearers will be Todd Ernsberger, Brian Ernsberger, Donald Miller, Kayla Ernsberger, Michael Anderson, Amy Cartegena and Raul Cartegena.

Calling will be from 5-8 p.m. Thursday at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville.

Memorials are to New Hope Christian Center of Waterloo.

View a video tribute (by Wednesday) or send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com

## Gracie Pranger

WATERLOO — Gracie Mac Pranger, 4 months old, of Waterloo died Sunday, March 25, 2007.

She was born Nov. 13, 2006, in Auburn to Gabriel and Minde (Lewis) Pranger. They survive in Waterloo.

Also surviving are three sisters and a brother, Leah, Ally, Josie and Gabriel Pranger, all at home; her grandparents, Joe and Anne Pranger of Kendallville and Mike and Sandy Lewis of Corunna; and her great-grandmothers, Anna Mae Rediger of Auburn and Ruth M. Lewis of Auburn.

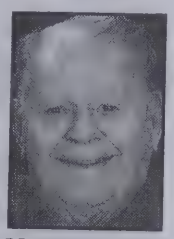
Private family graveside services will be today at 1 p.m. in Fairfield Cemetery of rural Corunna, with the Rev. Jess Jessup officiating.

Memorials are to A New and Living Way Ministries, P.O. Box 259, Ashley, IN 46705.

Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, is handling arrangements.

## Andrew Haudenschild

FORT WAYNE — Andrew F. Haudenschild, 95, of Fort Wayne died Monday, March 26, 2007, at Byron Health Center.



Mr. Haudenschild

Mr. Haudenschild was a wire drawer at Essex Wire until his retirement in 1977. He also was a school bus driver for Fort Wayne Community Schools from 1953 to 1977. He was a U.S. Army veteran and a member of the Sugar Grove Church of God.

He was born March 24, 1912, in Fort Wayne to Casper and Sarah (Miller) Haudenschild.

He married Thelma Cook on Nov. 23, 1938. She survives in Fort Wayne.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Paul and Marilene Haudenschild of Fort Wayne; a grandson, five great-grandchildren, two great-great-grandsons, three stepgreat-great-granddaughters and a brother, Robert Haudenschild of Tulare, Calif.

Services will be Saturday at 2 p.m. in Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett. A graveside service will be Saturday at 3:30 p.m. in Prairie Grove Cemetery.

Calling will be Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Condolences may be left at www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

## Dorothy Post

AUBURN — Dorothy A. Post, 79, of Auburn died Saturday, March 24, 2007, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

She received a B.A.E. degree from the University of Mississippi in 1948 and a Master of Science degree from the University of Illinois in 1966.

Mrs. Post was a 60-year member of Alpha Psi of Delta Gamma Social Fraternity and Tau Kappa Alpha Honorary Forensic Fraternity.

She was born April 30, 1927, at Methodist Hospital in Hattiesburg, Miss., to Malcolm Osten and Heland Irving Dougall.

She married Paul Emil Post on Dec. 1, 1973. He survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are three stepchildren and their spouses, Darrell and Marilyn Post of Churubusco, Ken and Diane Post of Fort Wayne and Paula Post and Tom Hutton of North Carolina; six grandchildren and their spouses, Randy and Tricia Post, Adam and Michelle Post, Chad Post, Kurt and Faith Post, Kara Post, Katie Post and David Pranger; and three great-grandchildren, Matthias Post, Maria Post and Mikaela Post.

Private family services took place Tuesday at 11 a.m. in the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Auburn, with Father Mark Gurtner officiating. Burial was in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, handled arrangements.

## Darryl Owen

ALBION — Darryl Jay Owen was stillborn at 2:15 a.m. Saturday, March 24, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn to Joseph Stover and Tricia Trowbridge, both of Albion.

Also surviving are maternal grandparents, Walter Trowbridge Jr. of Kendallville and Julia Trowbridge of Kendallville; paternal grandparents, Ruth and Del Owen of Albion; maternal great-grandparents, Walter Sr. and Patricia Trowbridge of Kendallville; paternal great-grandparents, Raymond Heileman Sr. of Albion and Barbara Owen of Albion; five aunts, Jessica Stover, Jacquline Stover, Harley Owen, Hannah Owen and Sherinda Trowbridge; and an uncle, Walter Trowbridge III.

He was preceded in death by a paternal grandfather, Darryl Owen; a paternal great-grandmother, Roberta Heileman; maternal great-great-grandparents, John and Olive Gieseking; and a cousin, Mason Trowbridge.

Graveside services will be at 2:30 p.m. Saturday at Sweet Cemetery near Albion with Craig Myers and Benny Archer officiating. Pallbearers will be Del Owen, Walter Trowbridge Jr., Walter Trowbridge Sr. and Mike Allmack.

Calling will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel.

Memorials are to the family.

Condolences may be sent online to www.youngfamily-funeralhome.com.

## Michael Yoder

BUTLER — Michael Yoder, 43, died Sunday, March 25, 2007, at his home in Butler.

Born in Portland, he worked at Peoplelink in Auburn. He was a handyman and enjoyed fishing.

Surviving are his wife, Teresa Koehl Yoder of Butler; three sons and a daughter-in-law, Jeremy and April Busche of Rushville and Jason Wilt and Eric Yoder, both of Fort Wayne; a daughter, Berta Rogers of Fort Wayne; his mother, Patricia Smith of Fort Wayne; his stepfather, Daniel L. Smith of Tennessee; a grandmother, Katherine Murphy of Fort Wayne; two stepdaughters, Megan Kapp and Alexis Kapp, both of Butler; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Wesley and Ruthie Yoder and Daniel P. and Nicole Smith, all of Fort Wayne; two sisters, Michelle Mitchel of Avilla and Lisa Yoder of Fort Wayne; and three grandchildren.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday in D.O. McComb & Sons Lakeside Park Funeral Home, 1140 Lake Ave., Fort Wayne. The Rev. John L. Blair will officiate.

Calling will be from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family.

## Pamela Zentz

BUTLER — Pamela S. Zentz, 61, of Butler died Monday, March 26, 2007, at her home.

Mrs. Zentz was a homemaker and a loving mother.

She was born Feb. 13, 1946, in Auburn to Clarence and Theresa (Meyer) Zentz. They preceded her in death.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Jaisen and Amanda Zentz of Ridgeway, S.C.; and her former husband, Larry Schlosser of Butler.

Services will be Thursday at 1 p.m. in H.E. Johnson & Son Funeral Home, Butler, with Pastor Justin Fisher officiating. Burial will be in Butler Cemetery.

Calling will be Thursday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Humane Shelter.

## Santos Trevino

AUBURN — Santos F. Trevino, 28, died Wednesday, March 21, 2007.

Mr. Trevino

Mr. Trevino was born Nov. 23, 1978, in Florida. He moved to Auburn in 2001.

He is survived by his parents, William and Angie Cable; his son, Gabriel L. Trevino; two brothers, William Cable Jr. and Michael Cable; and four sisters, Sally Cable, Robin Burnette, Sunshine Hackney and Monica Cable

A memorial service will be Saturday at 10 a.m. at Auburn Baptist Church, 500 W. Ensley Ave., Auburn.

## Gordon Henney

## Dessie Henney

KENDALLVILLE — Memorial services for Gordon T. Henney and Dessie M. "Sue" Henney will be at 1:30 p.m. Saturday in the chapel at Shepherd of the Hill nursing home in Kendallville with the Rev. G. Scott Pattison of Trinity Church United Methodist officiating.

Mr. Henney died May 24, 2002, at age 99.

He was a lifetime area resident and had retired after 20 years of service with No-Sag in Kendallville.

He was born March 31, 1903, in Kendallville to Jacob Phillip and Eva (Ritter) Henney.

Mrs. Henney died Jan. 1, 2007, at age 95.

Mrs. Henney retired after more than 37 years at McCray Refrigeration in Kendallville.

She was born Oct. 22, 1909, in Edgerton, Ohio, to Lake William and Maude Udella (Wilson) Kizer.

The couple were married Nov. 21, 1943, in Kendallville and were members of Trinity Church United Methodist.

Mr. Henney was a member of the IOOF Lodge 316 in Kendallville and Mrs. Henney was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star in Kendallville.

Surviving the couple are two daughters and a son-in-law, Susan and Lawrence Raffo of Burlingame, Calif., and Marsha Henney of Las Vegas, Nev.; six grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Mr. Henney is also survived by a sister, Harriet Thompson of Stockton, Calif.

Mrs. Henney is also survived by a sister, Bettie Smith of Kendallville; a sister-in-law, Elaine Kizer of Auburn; and a brother-in-law, Howard Seidel of Kendallville.

Mr. Henney was preceded in death by two brothers, Pete Henney in 1995 and Corwin Henney in 1993.

Mrs. Henney was preceded in death by two brothers, Ariel Kizer and Thomas Kizer, and a sister, Scottie Seidel.

Memorials are to Shepherd of the Hill.

Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, is in charge of arrangements.

Condolences may be sent online to www.youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** *is being reprinted with a correction.*

## Gracie Pranger

WATERLOO — Gracie Mae Pranger, 4 months old, of Waterloo died Sunday, March 25, 2007.

She was born Nov. 13, 2006, in Auburn to Gabriel and Minde (Lewis) Pranger. They survive in Waterloo.

Also surviving are three sisters and a brother, Leah, Ally, Josie and Gabriel Pranger, all at home; her grandparents, Joe and Anne Pranger of Kendallville and Mike and Sandy Lewis of Corunna; and her great-grandmothers, Anna Mae Rediger of Auburn and Ruth M. Lewis of Auburn.

Private family graveside services were conducted in Fairfield Cemetery of rural Corunna, with the Rev. Jess Jessup officiating.

Memorials are to A New and Living Way Ministries, P.O. Box 259, Ashley, IN 46705.

Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, is handling arrangements.

## Henry Williamson

SPENCERVILLE — Henry H. Williamson Sr., 75, of Spencerville died Sunday, March 25, 2007, at his home in Spencerville.

Born in Garland City, Ariz., Mr. Williamson was a tool grinder at Zollner Corp. for 30 years, retiring in 1987. He was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War.

He was a member of Cornerstone Church and the Zollner Quarter Century Club. He enjoyed bingo, hunting and fishing and loved nature.

Surviving are two sons, Henry H. Williamson Jr. of Spencerville and Rickie L. Williamson Sr. of Auburn; three daughters, Debra D. Koch of St. Joe, Konnie S. Prentice of Butler and Tina L. Pepe of Ossian; 25 grandchildren; and 20 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Dorothy M., two brothers, James T. and John W. Williamson, and a sister, Agnes Hickman.

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. at the McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, with Pastor H. Dean Woolard officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Calling will be today from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. and Friday from 10-11 a.m. at the funeral home and

Memorials are to Cornerstone Church.

## L.B. Neeley

WATERLOO — L.B. Neeley, 78, of Waterloo died Tuesday, March 27, 2007, at Osceola Regional Medical Center in Kissimmee, Fla.

Mr. Neeley

Mr. Neeley worked at Newnam Foundry in Kendallville, retiring in 1984. He was a member and deacon at the Freewill Baptist Church of Waterloo.

He was born March 1, 1929, in Knott County, Ky., to John and Rhoda (Manns) Neeley. They preceded him in death.

He married Dana Shepherd on Nov. 5, 1949, in Prestonburg, Ky. She died July 26, 1990.

He married Gracie (Crager) Dangler on March 29, 1992, at the Freewill Baptist Church of Waterloo, and she survives.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, David and Leona Neeley of Ohio; two daughters and a son-in-law, Wilma Sutton of Hudson and Judy and JR Sexton of Kendallville; a stepson and his wife, Don and Betty Dangler of South Milford; two stepdaughters and their husbands, Sherry and Jamal Anabtawi of Fort Wayne and Susan and Mitchell Kruse of Auburn; two sisters, Ollie Roberts of Columbia City and Myrtle Engle of Fort Wayne; and many grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a stepson, Rex Dangler.

Services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. in the Freewill Baptist Church, 2833 C.R. 27, Waterloo, with the Rev. Ron Stambaugh officiating. Burial will be in Mount Pisgah Cemetery at Stroh.

Calling will be Friday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo.

Memorials are to the Freewill Baptist Church.

## Jerry DeLong

FORT WAYNE — Jerry A. DeLong, 59, of Fort Wayne died Wednesday, March 28, 2007, at Parkview North Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. DeLong was a social worker with the Indiana Department of Corrections Northeast Indiana Juvenile Detention Center. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and a member of American Legion Post 499. He was a graduate of the University of St. Francis and Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne.

He was born in Hicksville, Ohio.

Surviving are three daughters and one son-in-law, Jessica and Eric Easton of Indianapolis, Amanda DeLong of Fort Wayne and Emily DeLong of Grabill; a grandson, Michael; his mother, Eloise DeLong of Garrett; and a sister, Susan Smoots of Fort Wayne.

He was preceded in death by his father, George.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at D.O. McComb and Sons Pine Valley Park Funeral Home, 1320 E. Dupont Road, Fort Wayne. Chaplain Karen Kosberg will officiate. Burial will be in White City Cemetery in Spencerville, with military graveside rites.

Calling will be from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society.

## Milton Myers

AUBURN — Milton James Myers, 88, of Auburn, died Wednesday, March 28, 2007, at Miller's Merry Manor in Garrett.

Mr. Myers served his country as a mechanic in the U.S. Air Force during World War II. He was very proud to have flown the "Hump," a risky and vital supply route over the Himalayan Mountains from India to China, during his time there.

Upon his return from the military, he worked for International Harvester in Fort Wayne until 1957. He then worked for the County Line Cheese Co. in rural Auburn. Mr. Myers became supervisor of the plant's new prepack division in 1964. He retired when Beatrice Foods closed the plant. He enjoyed the annual deer hunting trips to Wyoming with the County Line employees.

Mr. Myers was born March 3, 1919, to Perry and Ola (Bishop) Myers on the family farm in rural Auburn. They preceded him in death.

In 1976, he received a Hoosier Homestead plaque honoring his family for 100 years of continuous ownership of the farm.

On Nov. 26, 1958, he married Florine D. Glass in Auburn. She died March 9, 2005.

Surviving are a sister, Orpha Weller of Garrett; and 19 nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by two sisters, Naomi Carnahan and Bernice Schowe.

Services will be Saturday at 10 a.m. in Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Larry Weller officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Friday from 6-8 p.m. in the funeral home.

## Patricia Weaver

GARRETT — Patricia Ann Weaver, 58, of Garrett died Thursday, March 29, 2007, at her home.

Mrs. Weaver

Mrs. Weaver was an office manager at the Family Counseling Center for nearly 30 years. She was a member of the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Garrett.

She was born March 1, 1949, in Garrett to Kenneth and Clara (Diederich) Bowman. They preceded her in death.

She married Wayne "Bud" Weaver on April 14, 1967, in Auburn, and he survives.

Also surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Douglas and Tonya Weaver of Auburn and Jeff Weaver of Albion; four grandchildren, Chase Weaver, Sydney Weaver and Abby Weaver, all of Auburn, and Bryce Weaver of Albion; and two brothers and sisters-in-law, Robert and Sandy Bowman and Edward and Nancy Bowman, all of Fort Wayne.

She was preceded in death by her stepfather, Michael Sobasky, and a brother, Kenneth Bowman Jr.

Services will be Tuesday at 10 a.m. in Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church with Pastor Jeffrey Horn officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery.

Calling will be Monday from 2-8 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, and Tuesday from 9-10 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church.

To sign a guestbook or leave a condolence, visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

## Norbert Gerbers

AUBURN — Norbert R. Gerbers, 91, of Auburn died Thursday, March 29, 2007, at his home, surrounded by his family.

Mr. Gerbers was a skilled pipe threader with Tokheim Corp. for 19 years, retiring in 1980. He was a lifetime farmer and was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church. He enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren.

He was born in Woodburn to Marie Hoeppner and Henry Gerbers.

Surviving are his wife of 70 years, Aliene Gerbers of Auburn; two sons and a daughter-in-law, Jerry and Patricia Gerbers of Woodburn and Dennis Gerbers of Auburn; three daughters and two sons-in-law, Ginger Albin and Kathy and Robin Garrison, all of Auburn, and Vicki and William Bollier of Pierceton; 16 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren; a brother and sister-in-law, Melvin and Betty Gerbers of Woodburn; a sister, Marcela Baker of Woodburn; and a sister-in-law, Eleanor Gerbers of New Haven.

He was preceded in death by three brothers, Edwin, Lawrence and Walter Gerbers.

Services will be Monday at 11 a.m. in Trinity Lutheran Church, 1801 N. Main St., Auburn, with Pastor Lloyd Bickel officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, and Monday from 10-11 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to Trinity Lutheran Church.

The EVENING STAR
April 2007 Auburn, Indiana

1

# A community ambassador

## Marge Andelin was the face of Welcome Wagon in Kendallville

**BY DENNIS NARTKER**
dennisn@kpcnews.net

KENDALLVILLE — "She was a go-getter, a very outgoing person."

That's how retired News-Sun Lifestyle editor Margaret Tarney Ewing describes Marge Andelin, 80, of Kendallville, who died Friday, Feb. 23, 2007, at Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla. Mrs. Andelin had been in failing health with cancer for some time and entered Provena on Jan. 5.

"Mom chose quality of life over chemotherapy, and wanted to spend her time with people," said her son, Vic Andelin.

As the newspaper's city reporter, I talked regularly with Marge when she stopped by the office to tell me about new Kendallville citizens. She sold advertising for 17 years for Welcome Wagon in four counties in northeastern Indiana.

Mrs. Andelin also would give me tips for stories, and sometimes I would call her for sources of information.

KPC Media Group Inc. President Terry Housholder and his wife, Grace, were longtime friends of Mrs. Andelin.

"Marge came to our home 30 years ago when we were newlyweds and brought us more Welcome Wagon gifts two years later when we had our first baby," said Housholder. "She had a wonderful heart and was a fabulous ambassador for our community. We got to know her better in later years when she joined two of our KPC-sponsored tours. She was a very caring person, a great traveler and a joy to be around."

"Mom knew a lot of folks," said her son.

She belon-ged to the Lydia Circle, a Trinity Church United Methodist ladies group in Kendallville that sold jars of pickles to raise funds for philanthropic endeavors.

**Mrs. Andelin**

"Marge was a hard worker for Welcome Wagon, and the church," said Ewing, who is a member of Trinity Church United Methodist.

Vic Andelin said his mother sold lots of pickles for the church group. "She left her list of pickle customers for the church so they could continue selling to them," he said.

She enjoyed the music and singing at Trinity United Methodist Church. "She asked that memorials be made to the church, because she loved the music so much," said her son.

Mafalda Spillner of Kendallville said her longtime friend had a strong faith in God.

Former Trinity Church United Methodist pastor the Rev. Dr. Dan Barker said, "Marge was faithful to her family and her church as well as her community. She was very caring, continuously requesting prayers for individuals and families facing difficult life circumstances."

Mrs. Andelin also requested memorials go to the Friendship Food Pantry in Kendallville where she volunteered her time.

She played bridge with friends twice a week for many years. The Tuesday Night Bridge Club and the Sunday night group moved from house to house, with members enjoying snacks while playing cards.

Spillner, one of Mrs. Andelin's bridge players, said Mrs. Andelin was an excellent contract bridge player. "She played bridge right up until she went into the Sacred Heart Home," she said.

They met when Mrs. Andelin moved to Kendallville. "We were close friends. It seemed like a lifetime we knew each other," she said.

Mrs. Andelin was also an avid Fort Wayne Komets hockey fan and regularly attended hockey games at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum.

"I didn't know about hockey until she started taking me to the games. I got hooked, and now I have season tickets," said Spillner.

Mrs. Andelin graduated from Toronto High School in Toronto, Ohio, in 1943, and married Carl Russell Andelin on April 29, 1950. He preceded her in death on Jan. 18, 1994.

She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Victor and Karen Andelin of Kendallville; a daughter and son-in-law, Anita and Jeff Zerkle of Auburn; a stepdaughter, Arlene Bruner of Cordova, Ala.; four grandchildren, Greg and Rae Andelin of Fishers, Jeff Andelin of Fort Wayne, and Matt and Sarah Jones of Auburn; one great-granddaughter, Taylor Andelin; and a sister, Marian Winn of Largo, Fla.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Harry Lloyd and Emma Mae (McClain) Pittenger, and two brothers, John and Robert Pittenger.

## Helen Hoover

BLUFFTON — Helen M. Hoover, 85, of Bluffton and formerly of Huntington, died Saturday, March 31, 2007, at 5:55 p.m. in Lutheran Hospital at Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Hoover was a housewife and a member of Clear Lake Happy Homemakers Extension Club.

She was born Jan. 30, 1922, in DeKalb County to George H. and Ada (Miller) Deihl.

On Dec. 26, 1948, in Garrett she married Merle W. Hoover. He survives.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Phillip M. and Cynthia Hoover of Bluffton; a daughter and son-in-law, Rebecca and Mark Reynolds of Monticello; a brother, Harold C. Deihl of Auburn; and two grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a sister, Ruth L. Hackman; and a brother, Carl E. Deihl.

Services will be Thursday at 10:30 a.m. at Goodwin Memorial Chapel, 3220 E. S.R. 124, Bluffton with Steve Frauhiger officiating. A graveside service will begin at 3 p.m. Thursday at Whitehead Cemetery in New Paris.

Calling will be Wednesday from 2-8 p.m. in Goodwin Memorial Chapel, Bluffton.

## Phyllis Farrington

AUBURN — Phyllis Jean Farrington, 82, of Auburn died Wednesday, March 28, 2007, at 1:30 p.m. at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn from complications of multiple myeloma cancer.

Mrs. Farrington had lived in rural Auburn for about 60 years, and moved to the nursing home one week before her death.

She was a homemaker and a lifelong resident of DeKalb County. She was interested in genealogy and Indiana history.

She was born Oct. 26, 1924, in Reading, Mich., to Besse and Waldo Sattison of Butler.

She married Ralph K. Farrington on May 26, 1942. He died July 9, 2004.

Surviving are three sons and two daughters-in-law, Thomas and Penny Farrington of Sarasota, Fla., Michael and Becky Farrington of Kokomo and Jerry Farrington of Fort Wayne; a daughter and son-in-law, Betty and Larry Owens of Auburn; seven grandchildren, one great-grandchild and a brother, Delmar Sattison of Butler.

She was preceded in death by two sisters, Vada Ridge of Michigan and Arco Goller of Butler, and a brother, John Sattison, who was killed in World War II.

A memorial service is being planned for later this month.

Memorials are to IUF/Multiple Myeloma Research Fund, Indiana University Cancer Center, Office of Gift Development LO 506, P.O. Box 67, Indianapolis, IN 46209-8763.

## V. Ann Johnson

AUBURN — V. Ann Johnson, 67, of Auburn died Sunday, April 1, 2007, at Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Johnson was president of Mechanical Systems Inc. of Auburn for nine years, retiring in 2006.

She was born in Chicago on May 11, 1939, to Glenn and Mary (Miles) McAtee. They preceded her in death.

She married Orville W. Johnson on Aug. 30, 1980, in Nashville, Tenn. He survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Christine Royse Niles and Mark Niles of Fort Wayne; three sons and a daughter-in-law, Scott A. Johnson of Auburn, Wayne R. and Verna Johnson of Nashville and Jeff L. Johnson of Auburn; and a brother and sister-in-law, G. Thomas and Regina McAtee of LaGrange.

She was preceded in death by four brothers, Wayne, Gary, Robert and Miles McAtee.

Services will be Thursday at 11 a.m. in Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Dick Niles officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

There will be no calling.

Memorials are to Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home, Fort Wayne.

## R. DeVon Myers

WATERLOO — R. DeVon Myers, 79, of Waterloo died Monday, April 2, 2007, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Myers was a lifetime farmer in Grant Township and a former Grant Township trustee. He was a member of the Waterloo United Methodist Church and an avid fan of DeKalb High School sports.

He was born July 25, 1927, in DeKalb County, to Chester A. and Audra (Stahl) Myers. They preceded him in death.

He married Merriel Nodine on Aug. 3, 1947, in the Waterloo E.U.B. Church. She survives in Waterloo.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Kevin and Sheila Myers of Conyers, Ga.; three daughters and two sons-in-law, Janell Grear of Auburn, Marcia and Terry Haskins of Waterloo, and Vonda and Kenneth Akey of Howe; six grandchildren, Brad Haskins, Angie Zimmerman, Neah Eltzroth, Kraig Akey, Brittany Myers and Shawn Myers; and two great-grandchildren, Alex Zimmerman and Mallory Eltzroth.

He also was preceded in death by a brother, the Rev. William Myers.

Services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. Rex Charles officiating. Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetary.

Calling will be from 3-8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Waterloo United Methodist Church, DeKalb County Relay for Life or the DeKalb High School Athletic Association.

The EVENING STAR
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# Daughters remember caring mom

BY JAMIE LEMKE-BARRAND
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PLEASANT LAKE — Joanna Varner liked taking care of people.

When she got older and retired, she ended up going back to work — as a homemaker for the Steuben County Council on Aging.

"She'd shop for people, do housework," said Joanna's daughter, Valerie.

Another of Joanna's daughters, Melanie, said her mother never really retired and would have kept going longer if she could have.

"She worked for the COA until she needed it herself," she said.

Joanna died at her Pleasant Lake home on Dec. 16, 2006, as the result of a pulmonary embolism. She was 70.

Valerie said in the time Joanna was working for the COA, there were four or five people she helped out and got very close to.

"Some of the people she helped were younger than her, and that bothered her," Melanie said.

Joanna also never got used to the fact that by nature of working with the elderly, some of them were going to pass away.

"She would be really hurt when she'd lose someone," Valerie said.

Melanie said a word that described her mother was "generous."

Valerie said she had a good sense of humor.

"She'd do anything for a photo," Valerie said with a smile. "She'd put on cowboy boots ..."

"Or a wig or false eyelashes," Melanie said.

Joanna worked at Dana-Weatherhead from 1966 until her retirement in 1994. She was born in Orland and graduated from Orland High School.

Joanna married William Varner in 1953. They had been married for 42 years when he died in February 1996.

"They worked so hard," Melanie said of her parents." They'd come home and they'd be so tired, but they'd still do things together ... they worked in the garden and they canned things."

Melanie and Valerie both recalled that their mother had a great love and talent for sewing.

"She started sewing when she was little," Valerie said. "She made of lot of her own clothes, and she made a lot of ours, too."

Joanna loved dogs, and over the years had several Boston terriers. The last one she had was named Zsa.

"About a month before she died, I got a Boston puppy," Valerie said, The puppy, christened Lulu, was a light in Joanna's life.

"She was just so tickled that I'd gotten her," Valerie said.

Canning was one of Joanna's greatest talents. She canned everything from peaches and plums to her own spaghetti sauce and salsa and all kinds of pickles.

Melanie said she wished she had inherited her mother's canning prowess, but she didn't.

"My dad and I tried to make pickles once. I don't know what we did, but it wasn't right," she said with a smile.

"Have you ever seen that episode of Andy Griffith, where they make all those pickles and have to throw them all away?"

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Joanna Varner shares a lighthearted moment with her daughters.**

Joanna's work ethic stemmed from a long way back. She began working when she was 10 or 11, her daughters said, taking babysitting jobs. When she got a little older, she took a job as a soda jerk at a soda fountain in Orland her uncle owned.

A few years ago, Joanna was diagnosed with diabetes. She suffered from neuropathy, but even during her illness, she rarely complained. She wanted to keep going on as she always had.

"It was important to her to live in her own home," Melanie said.

And she did just that, even though it made her daughters uneasy.

Her home was older, and it had porches and steps that became precarious for Joanna, especially after her diabetes led to her having to have two of her toes amputated.

"We would have liked it if she lived closer to town," Valerie said.

Even after her daughters moved out, Joanna still would mother them.

"She did a lot of things to surprise you," Melanie said. "You'd come home from work and she'd have left supper for you. I'd go to do her shopping, and she'd say, 'Make sure you get something for yourself.'"

Valerie said she will miss coming home to find crock pots of beans and baggies of cornbread in her breezeway.

"She took care of us," she said. "She was a worrier. She was protective. She was our mom."

## Albert Dunn

WATERLOO — Albert J. Dunn, 95, of Waterloo died Wednesday, April 4, 2007, at his home.

Mr. Dunn was an engineer for the B&O Railroad for 35 years. He also was a partner with his brother, Si, in Dunn Brothers Implement Store in Waterloo for 48 years.

He was a member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn and the Garrett Eagles and Garrett Knights of Columbus.

He was born Jan. 10, 1912, in DeKalb County to Clarence and Mary (Wetoskey) Dunn. They preceded him in death.

He married Kathryn Schlosser on Nov. 20, 1937, at St. Michael's Catholic Church. She survives in Waterloo.

Also surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Francis "Joe" and Linda Dunn of Waterloo and Lawrence Dunn of Dallas; four daughters and three sons-in-law, Ruth and Matt Solomon of Vienna, Va., Joyce and Chris Rossillo of Vienna, Jane and Dan Sweeney of Carmel and Kathleen Dunn of Venus, Calif.; a daughter-in-law, Susan Dunn of Denver; a brother, Loren Dunn of Waterloo; 13 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a son, David, four sisters, Helene Schaab, Margaret McKeon, Hilda Daeger and Elma Brown, and three brothers, Paul, Victor and Raymond.

Services will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. in the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 500 E. Seventh St., Auburn, with Father David Carkenord officiating. Burial will be in the Auburn Catholic Cemetery.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Monday at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, and from 10-11 a.m. Tuesday at the church.

Memorials are to DeKalb Memorial Hospice or Masses to the church.

## Gladys Leas

HUDSON — Gladys C. Leas, 82, of Hudson died Thursday, April 5, 2007, at Lutheran Hospital, Fort Wayne.

She retired in 1986 after teaching in Merrillville for 27 years. She was a graduate of Salem Center High School and Ball State University. She was a member of Salem Center Presbyterian Church, Delta Kappa Gamma, Steuben County Retired Teachers Association and Indiana Retired Teachers Association.

Ms. Leas was born in Hudson to Ralph and Cora (Barkley) Leas.

Surviving are a sister, Coralyn Greenfield of Auburn; a nephew and his wife, David and Donna Greenfield of Auburn; two nieces, Caitlin and Bronwen Greenfield, both of Auburn; and a nephew, Isaac Greenfield of Auburn.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Salem Center Presbyterian Church, with the Revs. Bill Hambright, Jordan Truman, Howard G. Compton and Craig Burkholder officiating.

Calling will be Sunday from 3 to 6 p.m. at Johnson Funeral Home, Hudson, and one hour prior to services at the church on Monday.

Memorials are to the church.

Pallbearers will be David Greenfield, Isaac Greenfield, Keith Libey, Morgan Libey, Nathan Libey and Kory Kleeberg.

Condolences can be e-mailed to Johnson@bnin.net.

## Marcella Lindemuth

FORT WAYNE — Marcella J. Lindemuth, 86, of Fort Wayne died Tuesday, April 3, 2007, at Saint Anne Home of Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Lindemuth was a receptionist with Peter Eckrich for 20 years. She retired in 1982.

She was a native of Garrett and graduated from Garrett High School in 1938.

She was a member of Trinity English Lutheran Church and Willow Ridge Golf Course. She was also an Embassy volunteer.

Surviving are a son, Michael R. Lindemuth of Vista, Calif.; a daughter, Jean Gray of Casselberry, Fla.; a grandchild; and a brother, Joseph McCorkel of Goshen.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles R. Lindemuth, in 1986.

There will be no services or calling.

Burial will be in Scipio Cemetery in Harlan.

D.O. McComb and Sons is handling arrangements.

## Virginia Friend

CORUNNA — Virginia M. Friend, 84, of Corunna died Thursday, April 5, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mrs. Friend was a former employee of the Auburn Rubber Co. and worked at General Electric in Fort Wayne during World War II. She was a homemaker.

She was a member of the Corunna United Brethren Church and Zephyrhills Wesleyan Church in Zephyrhills, Fla., where she spent her winters.

She was a graduate of Waterloo High School and a former member of the Model Home Club. She enjoyed flowers and gardening.

She was born May 6, 1922, in Auburn to Leal and Nellie (Long) Walker. They preceded her in death.

She married George Friend on May 25, 1946, in Waterloo and he survives.

Also surviving are a son, Lee Friend of Muncie, and his special friend, Sharon Jones of Ossian; a daughter and son-in-law, Bonnie and Jerry Blastick of Dyer; a brother, Eugene Woolever of Corunna; a brother-in-law, Stanley Friend of Corunna; a sister-in-law, Irene Myers of Corunna; five grandchildren, Joe Blastick of Dyer, Kim (Blastick) Klein and her husband, Marc, of Highland; Brian Blastick of Dyer, Stephanie Friend and her companion, Chris Thornbro, of Youngstown, Ohio, and Andy Friend of Muncie.

Private family services will be today at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. Jason Hollopeter and the Rev. Richard Pickard officiating. Burial will be in Corunna Cemetery.

Memorials are to the family.

*This obituary is being written to correct an error and provide additional information.*

## Carl Workman

AVILLA — Carl L. Workman, 93, of Avilla died at 7:10 a.m. Thursday, April 5, 2007, at Kendallville Manor Nursing Home.

**Mr. Workman**

Mr. Workman had owned the Avilla Feed Mills Inc. for many years with the late Ralph Housholder.

An Auburn native and 1933 graduate of Auburn High School, Mr. Workman moved to Swan Township in 1938 and then to Avilla in 1947.

He had served on the Avilla Town Board and was a longtime member of the Avilla Fire Department, where he held every office including fire chief.

Mr. Workman had held every office in the Avilla Lions Club and had served as president of the PTA.

He was a Sunday school teacher at Calvary United Methodist Church.

Mr. Workman enjoyed fishing, woodworking and camping.

He was born April 1, 1914, in Auburn to Wilbert and Emma (Michael) Workman. He married Esther Cramer on Oct. 6, 1938, in Auburn. She died March 26, 1994.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Steve and Becky Workman of Avilla; a daughter and son-in-law, Sandra and Bob Allread of Blackman Lake; four grandchildren, Brenda Kaiser, Kent Allread, Bradley Workman and Renae Helmkamp; and seven great-grandchildren, Luke Kaiser, Mark Kaiser, Zachary Allread, Benjamin Allread, Ella Workman, Sadie Helmkamp and Reese Workman.

He was also preceded in death by two brothers, Kenneth and Merle Workman.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Monday at Calvary United Methodist Church in Avilla with the Rev. Dr. Leonard King officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery at Garrett. Pallbearers will be Bradley Workman, Clay Helmkamp, Kent Allread, Mike Kaiser, Luke Kaiser and Jim Parker.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Saturday at Brazzell Funeral Home, Avilla Chapel, and one hour prior to services Monday at the church.

Memorials are to Calvary United Methodist Church in Avilla.

## F. James Bolin

LAGRANGE — F. James Bolin, 84, of LaGrange died at VA Medical Center in Fort Wayne on Friday, April 6, 2007.

Mr. Bolin

He was a retired self-employed licensed public accountant in LaGrange for 35 years, from 1949 to 1984.

A graduate of Tri-State University, he was a World War II Disabled Veteran of the U.S. Army.

He was born Oct. 13, 1922, in Highland Park, Mich., to Furm Bolin and Loretta (Nartker) Bolin. They are both deceased.

He was married Nov. 10, 1945, to Maxine "Mick" Eagleson in LaGrange. She preceded him in death.

Bolin was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church and LaGrange Moose Lodge and a LaGrange American Legion Post 215 Life Member.

Surviving are four daughters and two sons-in-law, Peg Recchio of Bristol, Suzanne and Jeffrey Griffin of Goshen, Mary Rice of Carmel and Barb and John Wood of LaGrange; three sons and a daughter-in-law, Mike and Mary Bolin of Wolcottville and Joe Bolin and Billy Bolin, both of LaGrange; one brother, Michael Bolin of Austin, Texas; three sisters, Nancy Fuller of Auburn, Ruth Mead of Elkhart and Mary Bir of Kalamazoo, Mich.; 18 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife; a son, John F. Bolin in 1982; and one brother, Bill Bolin.

Services will be Tuesday at 10 a.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church in LaGrange with the Rev. Mark Weaver officiating. Military graveside service by the LaGrange American Legion Post 215 will be at Greenwood Cemetery in LaGrange.

Calling will be Monday from 3-8 p.m. at Frurip-May Funeral Home in LaGrange. A Rosary will take place at 7:30 p.m.

Memorials are to the LaGrange County Cancer Society or Masses to the church.

Condolences may be sent to www.fruripmayfuneral-home.com

# Toddler's struggle with disease ends

BY JAMIE LEMKE-BARRAND
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ANGOLA — The young daughter of a former Tri-State University student who valiantly battled a severe genetic disorder has died.

Cadence Rigden, 23 months, was afflicted with Hurler syndrome — a rare, incurable genetic disease where a deficiency of an enzyme that breaks down mucopolysaccharides causes build-ups of sulfates in the heart, liver, brain and other organs. The condition is marked by progressive physical and mental deterioration, dwarfism and gargoyle-like facial features. Most children with Hurler's die by the age of 10.

Cadence was the daughter of Jessica Draper and Matt Rigden. Cadence was born April 9, 2005, weighing 7 pounds, 9 ounces and measuring 19 1/2 inches.

Jessica was living in Angola and attending Tri-State when Cadence was born and diagnosed with Hurler's. A group of TSU students formed the Care 4 Cadence Foundation, which held fund-raisers to help the family.

In March 2006, Jessica and Matt moved to Fort Wayne to live with Jessica's mother.

Cadence displayed many of the usual symptoms of Hurler's — her breathing was noisy and she had a constant runny nose. But she was a happy girl with a beaming smile.

In her short life, Cadence underwent some very grown-up medical procedures, including enzyme replacement therapy and a stem cell transplant (before which she had to go through chemotherapy).

Cadence's battle with Hurler's was marked by regular entries in an online journal Jessica kept. Here are some excerpts.

**June 4, 2006**
Cadence has been going to Riley to have enzyme replacement therapy every Tuesday for the past few weeks. They are aiming to have Cadence admitted to the hospital to start the chemotherapy either the second or third week of July.

**Aug. 8, 2006**
Cadence has been walking for about 2 1/2 weeks. She just gets cuter and cuter everyday.

**Aug. 27, 2006**
We are finally in the hospital for the transplant.

**Sept. 8, 2006**
Cadence's transplant was done this morning. It only took about 20 minutes.

ANDY BARRAND

**Cadence Rigden is shown in this file photo with her mother, Jessica Draper.**

**Sept. 16, 2006**
Matt and I trimmed Cadence's hair down. She looks so different bald. She reminds us of a little Buddha baby with her big belly and bald head.

**Sept. 24, 2006**
Everyone here is amazed at how well Cadence is doing.

**Oct. 3, 2006**
We're leaving for Ronald McDonald House right now. We're very excited.

**Oct. 8, 2006**
We're back in the hospital again already. Cadence had a fever yesterday so we brought her in to the ER and they gave her an antibiotic and took blood for cultures. This morning one of the cultures came back positive for infection, so they called us in and we're up on the stem cell floor again. Things had been going really well.

**Nov. 2, 2006**
We're home!

**Nov. 19, 2006**
Cadence's donor cells are 100 percent engrafted! We don't have to come back for two weeks now.

**Jan. 7, 2007**
(Cadence) is talking more now and says "baby" and "bottle," as well as another word that apparently I've said enough for her to pick up. I definitely need to start watching my language around her when I make mistakes. She imitates everything.

On Jan. 11, 2007, Cadence had a medical setback. She began vomiting, spiked a fever and her blood pressure shot up.

**Jan. 11, 2007**
They are inducing a coma right now to keep (Cadence) from moving around during all the procedures. They said to expect to be here a week, more than likely longer.

**Jan. 15, 2007**
The doctors still don't know what is behind Cadence's health deterioration. She is still in the drug-induced coma.

**Jan. 18, 2007**
Cadence is off the ventilator and doing well.

**Feb. 7, 2007**
Cadence hasn't been able to move her right arm since she woke up from the drug-induced coma. They did a CT scan and an MRI and discovered an abnormal spot in her brain. At first they thought she had a small stroke. Now they think that when her blood pressure was really low part of her brain didn't get enough blood flow, resulting in some damage to the left lobe of her brain.

**Feb. 16, 2007**
We finally got to come home Monday.

**March 30, 2007**
For those who haven't heard, Cadence passed away Tuesday morning at 8:48 a.m. She had been doing great, but got very sick out of nowhere on Monday. The doctors said there wasn't anything they could have done. The infection came on too strong and too quickly.

Services for Cadence were held in Fort Wayne and in Michigan. Condolences can be left online at www.mcombandsons.com.

**THE FOLLOWING TWO** *obituaries are being republished to correct errors provided to this newspaper.*

## Dr. William Fitzkee

ALBION — Dr. William E. Fitzkee, 67, of Albion died Wednesday, April 4, 2007, at his apartment above his Albion medical office around 4 p.m.

He owned and operated his family medical clinic in Albion and Butler. He had lived in Albion since moving from Mount Wolf, Pa., in July 1966.

He was born Nov. 18, 1939, in York, Pa., to Elwood Fritzkee, who died in 1969, and Florence King, who survives in Albion.

A graduate of Temple University School of Medicine in Philadelphia, he had been in the medical profession for 42 years.

He enjoyed horses and going to horse shows. He also enjoyed basketball. In his youth, he was active in youth groups.

No services will be held.

Calling will be Monday from 5 to 7 p.m. at Brazzell Funeral Home in Albion.

Memorials are to the American Heart Association.

The family requests no flowers be sent.

# Services set for area soldier, 1st Lt. Neale Moran Shank

AVILLA — Army 1st Lt. Neale Moran Shank, 25, died Friday, March 30, 2007, of non-combat injuries he received while serving his country in Iraq.

The 1999 Concordia Lutheran High School graduate went on to graduate from Infantry Basic Training in November 1999 and attended the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School in Fort Monmouth, N.J., before graduating in 2001.

**1st Lt. Shank**

1st Lt. Shank was accepted into the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and graduated in 2005 as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Infantry.

He also graduated from the Infantry Officers Basics Course that year and was on the Commander's List.

In April 2006, he graduated from Ranger School in Fort Benning, Ga., and was deployed to Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom on Aug. 12, 2006.

He was promoted to first lieutenant on Nov. 29, 2006.

He was born in Kendallville on April 26, 1981. He attended St. John Lutheran School in Kendallville through the sixth grade. He attended the seventh grade at Kendallville Middle School and then transferred to Concordia Lutheran Middle School in Fort Wayne.

Surviving are his mother and stepfather, Jacquelyn and George Strasser of Fort Wayne; his father, Michael Shank of Avilla; a sister, Naomi Shank of Wolcottville; a brother, Lt. Luke Shank, U.S. Navy, San Diego, Calif.; and grandparents, Harold and Dolores King of Fort Wayne, and Sam Shank of Avilla.

His grandmother Beverly (Uhl) Shank preceded him in death on Feb. 20, 2004.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum Expo Center, Fort Wayne. Burial will be at the U.S. Military Academy Cemetery, West Point, N.Y.

Calling will be Tuesday from 1 to 4 p.m. and 5 to 8 p.m. at Hockemeyer & Miller Funeral Home, 6131 St. Joe Road, Fort Wayne.

Memorials are to the Fisher House Foundation, 1401 Rockville Pike, Suite 600, Rockville, MD 20852. The foundation supports veterans and military families.

## Riley Homister

KENDALLVILLE — Riley Allen Homister, 45, formerly of Kendallville died Monday in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Homister

He was born in Hindman, Ky., on May 26, 1961, to Clyde Allen Homister and Wilma Jean (Holliday) Cox.

He was a United States Army veteran.

He liked to go fishing and camping.

Surviving are his father, Clyde Homister, and his wife, Phyllis, of Kendallville; his mother, Wilma Cox of Kendallville; his stepfather, Jack Nichols of Kendallville; a son, Sebastian Homister of Manheim, Germany; a daughter, Amber Homister of Fort Wayne; a brother, Jeff Homister of Kendallville; five sisters and two brothers-in-law, Donna Homister of Hamilton, Sharon Martinez of Columbia City, Pilar Homister of Garrett, Sybil and Richard Blake of Garrett and Sherri and Jeff McLaughlin of Kendallville; 12 nieces and nephews; and a great-nephew.

Other extended family members are Dana Homister of Middlebury, Audry Coomer, Brenda VanHalst of South Milford, Homeretta Faulkner of Goshen, Tim Fugate of Wawaka, Glen Ard of Wawaka, Jackie Ard of Middlebury and Teresa Wade of Kendallville.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Crystal Homister; and a niece, Shian Lantz.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Thursday at Hite Funeral Home with the Rev. Robert Muller officiating. Burial will be at Orange Cemetery near Rome City.

Calling will be from 3-8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Homister family in care of Hite Funeral Home.

View a video tribute or send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneral-home.com

## Wilda Worthington

TWIN FALLS, Idaho — Wilda Ellen Worthington, 84, of Twin Falls, Idaho, died Friday, April 6, 2007, at her home, surrounded by her loving family.

She was born Dec. 30, 1922, in Burley, Idaho, to Delbert and Lona Pratt Johnson.

She married Wendell H. Worthington on Aug. 17, 1941, in Burley, Idaho. He survives.

Other survivors include two daughters and one-son-in-law, Judy Cole of Auburn and Renae and Randy Lee of Twin Falls, Idaho; a son and daughter-in-law, Gary and Tami Worthington of Twin Falls, Idaho; eight grandchildren, including three grandaughters and their spouses in Auburn, Terri and John Turner, Jana and Tom Hartman and Mica and Tom Hirchak; 13 great-grandchildren. a sister, Norma Irwin of Nampa, Idaho; and a brother, Jim Johnson of Yakima, Wash.

She was preceded in death by her parents, three brothers and one sister.

Funeral and graveside services will be held Thursday, with arrangements by Reynolds Funeral Chapel, Twin Falls, Idaho.

Memorials are to the Friends Table Mission through the Auburn Presbyterian Church or to the DeKalb County Council on Aging (Heimach Center).

## Robert Brown

GARRETT — Robert L. Brown, 67, of Garrett died Monday, April 9, 2007, at Dupont Hospital, Fort Wayne.

Mr. Brown worked as a welder at Hendrickson Suspension in Kendallville for 25 years, retiring in 1995. He currently worked for Professional Transportation in Evansville.

He was a U.S. Air Force veteran, serving from April 16, 1957, to April 15, 1963.

He was born March 11, 1940, in Auburn, to Hildrith and Mary Brown. They preceded him in death.

He married Dorothy Judson on Oct. 24, 1964, in Garrett. She survives.

Also surviving are five daughters and sons-in-law, Sharon and Robert Brown of Corunna, Christina and Brian Washler of Butler, Mary and Martel Moreno of Waterloo, Regina and Jack Dean of Garrett and Lisa and Tobias Walter of Garrett; two brothers and a sister-in-law, Frank and Geraldine Brown of Wolcottville and William Brown of Auburn; a sister and brother-in-law, Bev and Gene Carper of Auburn; 18 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a son, Daniel Brown, and a brother.

Services will be at a later date.

Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, is handling arrangements.

## Robert Bauman

ALBION — Robert Eugene Bauman, 78, of Albion died Wednesday, April 11, 2007, at Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla.

Mr. Bauman

Mr. Bauman had been a farmer all his life.

He had been elected to the board of directors of the Noble County REMC for more than 24 years.

Mr. Bauman enjoyed fishing, playing cards and drinking coffee with his friends at Brimfield Crop Production Services.

He was born in Kendallville on April 7, 1929, to Walter and Beulah Mae (Gard) Bauman. He married Helen B. Snyder on Feb. 18, 1950, at St. John Lutheran Church in Kendallville. She survives.

Also surviving are two daughters and a son-in-law, Renee Fischer of Kendallville and Colleen and Oscar Godoy of Japan; two sons and a daughter-in-law, Kriss Bauman of Albion and Mark and Phyllis Bauman of Kendallville; a sister, Donna Uhl of Albion; a brother and sister-in-law, Carl and Lorraine Bauman of Auburn; five grandchildren, Denise Gaff and her husband, Clayton, of Kendallville, Carrie Bauman of Birmingham, Ala., Aaron Bauman of Kendallville, Kriss Bauman II, of Albion and Lisa Fischer of Avilla; five stepgrandchildren, Mandy and Alex Godoy of Japan, Nick and Willie Handshoe of Decatur, and Nannie Moore of Decatur; and eight stepgreat-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two sisters, Beatrice Truelove and Esther Bauman; and a brother, Alfred Bauman.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Hite Funeral Home, Kendallville. Burial will be at Sweet Cemetery near Albion. Pallbearers will be Aaron Bauman, Kriss Bauman II, Ernie Bauman, Oakley Uhl, Tom Griffiths, Scott Pressler and Richard Bauman.

Calling will be from 2-8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the donor's choice.

View a video tribute (by Friday) or send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneral-home.com.

## Dorothy Smith

SPENCERVILLE — Dorothy Smith, 90, of Spencerville died Wednesday morning, April 11, 2007, at Wesley Healthcare in Auburn.

Mrs. Smith

Mrs. Smith was a homemaker and a member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Spencerville.

She was born March 28, 1917, in Spencerville to Benjamin F. and Rally E. (Oberholtzer) Markle.

She married Wayne Willard Smith on July 31, 1937, at the Lutheran parsonage in Spencerville. He died Dec. 13, 1992.

Surviving are a son, Larry Smith of Leo; a daughter, Sharon Baker of Spencerville; eight grandchildren, Donna, Bonnie and Steve Patton, Theresa Dickerhoff, Mindy Emenheiser, Shelly Getts, Troy Smith and Amy Stewart; her great-grandchildren, Traci, Ryan, Shane and Kayla Patton, Chad and Shay Dickerhoff, Kierston and Seth Emenheiser, Tori and Heath Getts, Natalie and Nathan Stewart and Jacob Smith; and a great-great-grandson, Aeiden Patton.

She was preceded in death by a daughter, Shirley Heeren; two brothers, Max Markle and Henry Markle; and a sister, Gaylon Markle.

Services will be Friday at 10:30 a.m. in St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Spencerville, with the Rev. Elizabeth Nickel officiating. Burial will be in White City Cemetery at Spencerville.

Calling will be today from 2-8 p.m. at Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home, 6992 S.R. 1, Spencerville.

Memorials are to St. Peter's Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 97, Spencerville, IN 46788 or SouthernCare Inc., 4666 W. Jefferson St., Suite 170, Fort Wayne, IN 46804.

## Former city judge Jean McIntosh dies at 81

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Jean Marie Slough McIntosh, 81, of Charleston and formerly of Kendallville died Tuesday, April 10, 2007.

Mrs. McIntosh moved to Kendallville from California in 1964 following the death of her husband, Norman. She then married Nelson Harrod and raised her family.

During her years in Kendallville, Mrs. McIntosh was elected Kendallville City Judge in 1971 and served two terms. She also worked as a nurse for her two brothers, Dr. Richard Slough and Dr. Thomas Slough, and later served as a psychiatric nurse at McCray Memorial Hospital.

Mrs. McIntosh

Mrs. McIntosh was an avid bridge player and active in Tri Kappa Sorority. She worshipped at Trinity Church Untied Methodist.

In 1981, she moved to Charleston and finished her career at the Psychiatric Institute of University Medical Hospital. She attended Martin Luther Church where she served on the council and was active in the Women of Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (WELCA).

Mrs. McIntosh also taught English as a Second Language courses at Our Lady of Mercy Church.

She was born Dec. 20, 1925, in Bourbon, Ind., to Lawrence and Lillian Slough. She was valedictorian of the Bourbon High School class of 1943. She studied nursing at Methodist Hospital School of Nursing in Chicago and upon graduation enlisted in the U.S. Army Nurses Corps.

Surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Beth and Howard Vanderbeck of Charleston and Liliane and Stephen Heller of Great Barrington, Mass.; two sons and daughters-in-law, former U.S. Rep. David and Ruthie McIntosh of Arlington, Va., and Malcolm and Elizabeth McIntosh of Rochester, Minn.; two brothers, Robert Slough of Philadelphia and James Slough of Bourbon; a sister-in-law, Peg Scott of Kendallville; eight grandchildren, Alexandra Heller, Nicholas Heller, George Vanderbeck, Victoria Vanderbeck, Monica Vanderbeck, Ellie McIntosh, Madilyn Heller and David McIntosh Jr.; and a niece, Gretchen Slough of Kendallville.

Memorial services are at 3 p.m. Saturday in Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church at James Island. Interment services will be at a later date at Park Cemetery in Bourbon.

Memorials are for community services to WELCA in care of Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1605 Harbor View Road, James Island, SC 29412.

J. Henry Stuhr Inc., Downtown Chapel, was in charge of arrangements.

## Melody Emrick

KENDALLVILLE — Melody Joy Emrick, 49, of Sebring, Fla., and formerly of Kendallville died Tuesday, April 10, 2007, following a five-month battle with renal cell kidney cancer.

Ms. Emrick had lived in the Garrett and Kendallville areas most of her life and moved to Sebring in 1998.

Ms. Emrick

She had been a member of the First Baptist Church in Kendallville since her youth.

While living in Garrett, she worked at Cooper Tire. In Sebring, she worked at Walgreen's for several years and at Winn Dixie Supermarket in Avon Park, Fla., where she was general merchandise manager at the time of her death.

She enjoyed growing flowers and plants, especially orchids, and feeding birds and wild animals. She loved to read and spend time with her three cats.

Ms. Emrick will be remembered as a loving person.

She was born March 3, 1958, in Garrett to David L. Emrick and Ellen J. (Ritter) Miller.

Surviving are her mother, Ellen Miller of Sebring; her father and stepmother, David and Anna Emrick of Rio Rancho, N.M.; a daughter and son-in-law, Stacey and Earl Leas of Butler; a son, Joshua Zimmerman, and his companion, Amelia Isham, of Kiel, Wis.; seven grandchildren, Mylers, Travis, Jacob and Haley Leas and Abigail, Madason and Logan Zimmerman; two brothers and sisters-in-law, David and Georgia Emrick of Carrollton, Texas, and Steve and Rhonda Emrick of Rhone, Texas; five nieces; a nephew; and a special friend, James Smith.

She was preceded in death by her maternal grandparents, Orval and Lois (Hite) Ritter; and her paternal grandparents, Toellner and Thelma Emrick.

Services will be at 1:30 p.m. Monday at Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, with the Rev. David Wilson officiating.

Calling will be from 2-7 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Good Shepherd Hospice in Sebring, Fla., or the humane shelter of the donor's choice.

View a video tribute (by Sunday) or send condolences to the family at www.youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

## Jerry Zimmerman

WASHINGTON, Ind. — Jerry D. Zimmerman, 65, died Thursday, April 5, 2007, at 8:05 a.m. at Prairie Village Nursing Center in Washington, Ind.

Mr. Zimmerman was a 40-year member of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 1393, where he had been a lineman for more than 40 years. He was a member of St. Mary Catholic Church in Washington and enjoyed fishing with a friend or by himself.

He previously had lived in St. Joe as a child and in Auburn for about 20 years.

He was born May 17, 1941, in Fort Wayne, the son of Sherman and Mary (Likes) Zimmerman. They preceded him in death.

He married Mary Lou (Bennett) on Oct. 7, 1988. She survives.

Also surviving are two stepdaughters, Becky Whitworth of Loogootee and Julie Cathy of Wheatland; four sisters, Phyllis Dohner and Donna Boger, both of Auburn, Shirley Wickline of Port Clinton, Ohio, and Darlene Williams of Vincennes; two brothers, David Zimmerman of Mesa, Ariz., and Roger Zimmerman of Macedonia, Ohio; and seven grandchildren.

Graveside services were conducted Thursday at St. John Cemetery with Yvonne Evans officiating.

Memorials are to the Washington Catholic Education Endowment.

Condolences may be sent at www.edleemortuary.com.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** *is being reprinted to add a survivor this newspaper inadvertently omitted.*

## Melody Emrick

KENDALLVILLE — Melody Joy Emrick, 49, of Sebring, Fla., and formerly of Kendallville died Tuesday, April 10, 2007, following a five-month battle with renal cell kidney cancer.

**Ms. Emrick**

Ms. Emrick had lived in the Garrett and Kendallville areas most of her life and moved to Sebring in 1998.

She had been a member of the First Baptist Church in Kendallville since her youth.

While living in Garrett, she worked at Cooper Tire. In Sebring, she worked at Walgreen's for several years and at Winn Dixie Supermarket in Avon Park, Fla., where she was general merchandise manager at the time of her death.

She enjoyed growing flowers and plants, especially orchids, and feeding birds and wild animals. She loved to read and spend time with her three cats.

Ms. Emrick will be remembered as a loving person.

She was born March 3, 1958, in Garrett to David L. Emrick and Ellen J. (Ritter) Miller.

Surviving are her mother, Ellen Miller of Sebring; her father and stepmother, David and Anna Emrick of Rio Rancho, N.M.; a daughter and son-in-law, Stacey and Earl Leas of Butler; a son, Joshua Zimmerman, and his companion, Amelia Isham, of Kiel, Wis.; seven grandchildren, Mylers, Travis, Jacob and Haley Leas and Abigail, Madason and Logan Zimmerman; a sister and brother-in-law, Shelly and Ed "Pork" Waldron of Albion; two brothers and sisters-in-law, David and Georgia Emrick of Carrollton, Texas, and Steve and Rhonda Emrick of Rhone, Texas;five nieces; a nephew; and a special friend, James Smith.

She was preceded in death by her maternal grandparents, Orval and Lois (Hite) Ritter; and her paternal grandparents, Toellner and Thelma Emrick.

Services will be at 1:30 p.m. Monday at Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, with the Rev. David Wilson officiating.

Calling will be from 2-7 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Good Shepherd Hospice in Sebring, Fla., or the humane shelter of the donor's choice.

View a video tribute (by Sunday) or send condolences to the family at www.youngfamilyfuneral-home.com.

# Living life to the fullest

## Kimberly Hartman 'was a teacher to everyone'

**BY VIV ROSSWURM**
vivianr@kpcnews.net

CORUNNA — In the end she was not defined by the cancer that ravaged her body and took her life, but by the hundreds of people she had reached out to and touched with her laughter, kindness and compassion throughout her 39 years on Earth.

Kimberly D. (Lockwood) Hartman of Corunna died Saturday, March 17, 2007, at her home, after being diagnosed with colon cancer two years earlier.

Hundreds attended her funeral to pay their respects to Mrs. Hartman, a much-beloved figure in DeKalb County, where she lived, and in Noble County, where she taught first grade and served as a literacy coordinator for 16 years at North Side Elementary School in Kendallville.

"She loved what she did," said her husband, Greg Hartman. "She especially liked teaching young children. She wanted to influence them early in life."

"She was teacher to everyone, not just her students," her sister Lisa Clifford, remembers. "She was the big sister I went to for advice on my kids — advice on anything, on everything."

One woman credits Kim Hartman with saving her life.

Shellie Purdy of Auburn was the same age as Hartman and had just been diagnosed with breast cancer in 2005.

"We met one day while having chemotherapy treatments," Purdy said. "I was very depressed. Chemo was very hard on me."

Purdy felt an instant bond between the women: Both had cancer, both were about the same age; both had children the same age and both were married.

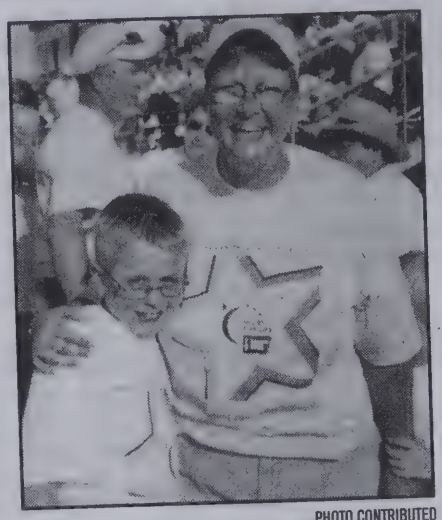


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Kimberly Hartman is shown at a Relay for Life event in 2005. She participated in the relay events in Noble and DeKalb counties and always was surrounded by family members and a large number of students whom she had taught in Noble County. She died of cancer March 17 at the age of 39.**

But, there was one big difference — and that was how they were reacting to having cancer.

"I realized after getting to know Kim that she was in a worse situation, and yet she had a much better attitude. She showed me how to count my blessings. Kim made the difference for me. I quit wallowing in my self-pity and begin to fight for myself," Purdy said.

At Hartman's funeral, Purdy told the Hartman family that she believed God had intended for her to meet Kim at one of the lowest points in her life.

"I needed her," Purdy said. "She lifted me up."

Greg Hartman said his wife never once asked, "Why me?"

"She was always upbeat — before and after the cancer — always bubbly and happy," he said. "We have three wonderful kids who are doing great considering what was taken from them. And it's because Kim was always honest with them and explained everything."

One of Kim Hartman's best friends, who later became her sister-in-law, said she will miss Kim's laughter the most.

"No one laughed like her," Angie Warner said. "She was always upbeat, always happy."

"Two weeks after her diagnosis, she was comforting me," Warner said. "I drew away from her, afraid that I would break down. We had been longtime friends and had roomed together before she married my brother."

But Kim Hartman sensed that Warner was drawing back and e-mailed her four weeks after she had been diagnosed with final-stage colon cancer and had been given only months to live.

"I heard you're having a hard time with my diagnosis," Kim Hartman wrote. "I'm so sorry. But remember, this is just another bend in the road, Ang."

"The cheering up thing ... " Kim Hartman went on to say in the message, "I think that's one of the reasons God put me in this position with cancer. I feel pretty confident that my experience has helped more people than I can imagine. It has definitely made a huge difference in our lives — honestly, the good has outweighed the bad, so far."

## Wilma Wilder-Stores

AUBURN — Wilma D. Wilder-Stores, 84, of Auburn died Saturday, April 14, 2007, at her daughter's home in Auburn.

Mrs. Wilder-Stores had been a housekeeper for the Starlight Motel in Auburn and the Redwood Motel in Angola.

**Mrs. Wilder-Stores**

She was a member of the Indian Village Church of God in Auburn. She enjoyed gardening, canning, doing embroidery work, and spending time with her family.

She was born May 8, 1922, in LaGrange County. She married Robert Wilder on Jan. 25, 1940, in LaGrange County. He passed away in May of 1981. She married Rolla Stores on June 18, 1987, in Fort Wayne. He passed away in January 2005.

Surviving are a son, Steve Wilder of Auburn; three daughters, Donna Phares of Hudson, Lola Fairchild of Auburn and Roberta Willits of LaGrange; two stepsons, Rex Stores and Keith Stores both of Fort Wayne; two brothers, Kenneth Northup of LaGrange, and Floyd Northup of Hudson; two sisters, Kathern Wilder of Helmer, and Linda Howdyshell of Hudson; nine grandchildren, five step-grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, three stepgreat-grandchildren, and eight great-great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by three brothers, Gerald Northup, Harold Northup and Roger Northup; one sister, Mildred Myers; and one grandchild, Gary Lynn.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Feller Funeral Home in Waterloo with the Rev. Raymond Warner and John Scott officiating. Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery in Corunna.

Calling will be from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Parkinson's Disease Foundation.

## Pearlie Sutherland Sr.

GARRETT — Pearlie M. Sutherland Sr., 58, of Garrett, died Friday, April 13, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Sutherland was born in December 1948

Surviving are his wife, Kathy (Sisco), in Garrett; his wife's children, Kristin and Megan Sisco, both of Garrett; four nephews, Ronald Lannet and Randall Lannet, both of Sardis, Miss., Richard Lannet of Jonesboro, Ark., and John Hitchcock, also of Jonesboro, Ark.; three great-nephews, four great-nieces, four great-great nephews and two great-great nieces.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Connie Lee Shields.

Services will be Wednesday at 1 p.m. at McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery in rural Corunna.

Calling will be Tuesday from 5-7 p.m. and Wednesday from noon to 1 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** is *being reprinted to include additional information inadvertently omitted by this newspaper.*

## Wilma Wilder-Stores

AUBURN — Wilma Wilder-Stores, 84, of Auburn died Saturday, April 14, 2007, at her daughter's home in Auburn.

**Mrs. Wilder-Stores**

She was a housekeeper for the Starlight Motel in Auburn and the Redwood Motel in Angola. She was a member of the Indian Village Church of God in Auburn. She enjoyed gardening, canning, embroidery work and spending time with her family.

She was born May 8, 1922, in LaGrange County.

She married Robert H. Wilder on Jan. 25, 1940, in LaGrange County. He died in May 1981.

She married Rolla E. Stores on June 19, 1987, in Fort Wayne. He died in January 2005.

Surviving are a son, Steve Wilder of Auburn; three daughters, Donna Phares of Hudson, Lola Fairchild of Auburn and Roberta Willits of LaGrange; two stepsons, Rex Stores and Keith Stores, both of Fort Wayne; two brothers, Kenneth Northup of LaGrange and Floyd Northup of Hudson; two sisters, Kathern Wilder of Helmer and Linda Howdyshell of Hudson; nine grandchildren, five stepgrandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, three stepgreat-grandchildren and eight great-great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her father and stepmother, Clyde and Juanita (Schaenauer) Northup; her mother, Bernice S. Randal; three brothers, Gerald, Harold and Roger Northup; one sister, Mildred Myers; and one grandchild, Gary Lynn.

Services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. The Rev. Raymond Warner and John Scott will officiate. Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery in rural Corunna.

Calling will be Tuesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Parkinson's Disease Foundation.

# Longtime businessman Al Molargik, 79, dies

GARRETT — Longtime Kendallville businessman Aloysius Andrew Molargik, 79, of Garrett died Sunday, April 15, 2007, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Molargik owned and operated A&M Auto in Kendallville for 47 years. He also developed and owned Al's West Mall, also in Kendallville.

Spending time with his family and grandchildren was important to Mr. Molargik. He also enjoyed fishing and boating on Lake Erie, cutting wood, spending time outdoors and operating his businesses.

He was a United States Marine Corps veteran serving during both World War II and the Korean War.

Mr. Molargik was born in Ege on Feb. 25, 1928, to Frank and Frances (Ludwig) Molargik. He married Marilyn Rita Wurm on July 28, 1956, at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Fort Wayne. She survives.

Also surviving are four daughters and three sons-in-law, Lori Dunn of Hudson, Linda and Joel Eberhard of Huntertown, Lisa and Tim Lantz of Garrett and Lana and Rick Gamble of Warren; three sisters and a brother-in-law, Teresa Lombardo of Fort Wayne, Leona and Louis Gibson of Fort Wayne and Alvina Molargik of Hudson; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Mike and Mary Molargik of Garrett and Lawrence and Regina Molargik of Corunna; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and six brothers, Eddie, Frank, Albert, Clem, Tony and Vern.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville with Father Lourdino Fernandes officiating. Burial will be in Ege Cemetery at Ege, near LaOtto.

Calling will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

View a video tribute (by Wednesday) or send condolences to the family at

## Phyllis Farrington

AUBURN — A memorial service for Phyllis Jean Farrington, 82, of Auburn will be Saturday at 2 p.m. in Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. The Rev. Paul Marki will officiate.

Calling will be Saturday from 1-2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Mrs. Farrington died Wednesday, March 28, 2007, at 1:30 p.m. at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn from complications of multiple myeloma cancer.

She had lived in rural Auburn for about 60 years, and moved to the nursing home one week before her death.

Mrs. Farrington was a homemaker and a lifelong resident of DeKalb County. She was interested in genealogy and Indiana history.

She was born Oct. 26, 1924, in Reading, Mich., to Besse and Waldo Sattison of Butler.

She married Ralph K. Farrington on May 26, 1942. He died July 9, 2004.

Surviving are three sons and two daughters-in-law, Thomas and Penny Farrington of Sarasota, Fla., Michael and Becky Farrington of Kokomo and Jerry Farrington of Fort Wayne; a daughter and son-in-law, Betty and Larry Owens of Auburn; seven grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and a brother, Delmar Sattison of Butler.

She was preceded in death by two sisters, Vada Ridge of Michigan and Arco Goller of Butler, and a brother, John Sattison, who was killed in World War II.

Memorials are to IUF/Multiple Myeloma Research Fund, Indiana University Cancer Center, Office of Gift Development LO 506, P.O. Box 67, Indianapolis, IN 46209-8763.

## Patsy Livergood

GARRETT — Patsy Ann Livergood, 48, of Garrett died Monday evening, April 16, 2007, at her home.

She was an avid animal lover and especially loved Chihuahuas. She enjoyed traveling, food and laughter.

She was born May 2, 1958, in Garrett to Robert and Shirley (Reed) Oswalt. They preceded her in death.

Surviving are her life's partner, Bill Shipe; a daughter, Michelle Powers of Wolcottville; three sons, Michael Bolinger of Wolcottville, Eric Shipe of Garrett and Mike Shipe of Fort Wayne; seven grandchildren; three sisters and a brother-in-law, Sue Ellen Gray of Waterloo, Holly Petre of Auburn and Jean and Colin Conkle of Auburn; two brothers and a sister-in-law, Kevin and C.J. Oswalt of Florida and Randy Oswalt of Florida; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by a brother, James Miller of Tucson, Ariz., and her adoptive parents, Richard and Ruth Livergood of Auburn, Jack Carson of Auburn and Lorraine Oswalt of Florida.

Private family services will be Thursday at Feller Funeral Home in Waterloo, with the Rev. Richard Pickard officiating.

Memorials are to the Diabetes Foundation or the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation.

## Tavarous Ford

WATERLOO — Tavarous "Bubba" Lamont Ford Jr., 2 months old, of Waterloo died Monday, April 16, 2007, at his home in Waterloo.

He was born Feb. 1, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn to Tavarous Ford and Brandy Frick. They survive.

Also surviving are two sisters, Alysa Frick and Jasmine Ford, both at home; grandparents Larie and Denise Creager of Corunna, Kelly Earle of Tipton, Tracie Douglas of Kendallville and Freddie and Carrie Ford of Gary; his great-grandparents, Virgil and Susan Wildt of Wheeling, Linda Milligan of Evansville and Marilee Dangler of Orland; aunts and uncles, Sarah Reynolds of Kendallville, Jennifer Creager of Fort Wayne, Jessica Green of Waterloo, Latrice Ford of Gary, Antonia Ford of Gary, Bryan Earle of Corunna, Auther Reynolds of Kendallville, Freddy Ford Jr. of Gary and Jerome Ford of Gary; and cousins, Erik, Lillian, Johnathan, Freddy, Jerome, Shankeya, Jacari, Ethen and Tony.

He was preceded in death by his great-grandparents, Carol Milligan, Helen Bunch, Larry Earle, Irene Carter, Clara Ford, Willie Ford, Rosie Ford and Lafayette Ford.

Services will be Friday at 3 p.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. The Rev. Ralph Diehl will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be Friday from 1-3 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family.

## Robert Brown

GARRETT — Graveside services for Robert L. Brown, 67, of Garrett will be Saturday at 2 p.m. at Circle Cemetery in Hudson. Chaplain Robin Larue will officiate.

Mr. Brown died Monday, April 9, 2007, at Dupont Hospital, Fort Wayne.

He worked as a welder at Hendrickson Suspension in Kendallville for 25 years, retiring in 1995. He most recently worked for Professional Transportation in Evansville.

He was a U.S. Air Force veteran, serving from April 16, 1957, to April 15, 1963.

He was born March 11, 1940, in Auburn, to Hildrith and Mary Brown. They preceded him in death.

He married Dorothy Judson on Oct. 24, 1964, in Garrett. She survives.

Also surviving are five daughters and sons-in-law, Sharon and Robert Brown of Corunna, Christina and Brian Washler of Butler, Mary and Martel Moreno of Waterloo, Regina and Jack Dean of Garrett and Lisa and Tobias Walter of Garrett; two brothers and a sister-in-law, Frank and Geraldine Brown of Wolcottville and William Brown of Auburn; a sister and brother-in-law, Bev and Gene Carper of Auburn; 18 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a son, Daniel Brown, and a brother.

Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, is handling arrangements.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** is *being reprinted to correct an error. We apologize for the error.*

## Virginia Friend

CORUNNA — Virginia M. Friend, 84, of Corunna died Thursday, April 5, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mrs. Friend was a former employee of the Auburn Rubber Co. and worked at General Electric in Fort Wayne during World War II. She was a homemaker.

She was a member of the Corunna United Brethren Church and Zephyrhills Wesleyan Church in Zephyrhills, Fla., where she spent her winters.

She was a graduate of Waterloo High School and a former member of the Model Home Club. She enjoyed flowers and gardening.

She was born May 6, 1922, in Auburn to Leal and Nellie (Long) Woolever. They preceded her in death.

She married George Friend on May 25, 1946, in Waterloo and he survives.

Also surviving are a son, Lee Friend of Muncie, and his special friend, Sharon Jones of Ossian; a daughter and son-in-law, Bonnie and Jerry Blastick of Dyer; a brother, Eugene Woolever of Corunna; a brother-in-law, Stanley Friend of Corunna; a sister-in-law, Irene Myers of Corunna; five grandchildren, Joe Blastick of Dyer, Kim (Blastick) Klein and her husband, Marc, of Highland; Brian Blastick of Dyer, Stephanie Friend and her companion, Chris Thornbro, of Youngstown, Ohio, and Andy Friend of Muncie.

Private family services were held April 7 at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. Jason Hollopeter and the Rev. Richard Pickard officiating. Burial was in Corunna Cemetery.

Memorials are to the family.

## Marcella Rockwell

ANGOLA — Marcella E. Rockwell, 95, of Angola and Ellenton, Fla., died Wednesday, April 18, 2007, at her daughter's home on Jimmerson Lake.

Mrs. Rockwell

She was born Aug. 12, 1911, near Garrett to Charles and Minnie (Lehner) Snyder. They preceded her in death.

Mrs. Rockwell was the owner of Auburn's first baby clothing store in 1946. She and her husband co-owned the Mid-West Dairy in Auburn until 1961.

She and her family moved in 1956 to a farm near Pleasant Lake, where she lived until 1971. She was a member of the Hudson Methodist Church and the Hudson Garden Club until moving to Ellenton.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, James and Connie Rockwell of Minnesota; a daughter, Dr. Joyce Rockwell of Jimmerson Lake; four grandchildren and their spouses, Clint and Karla Rockwell of Florida, Rodney and Marcella Rockwell of Germany, Roy and Trina Rockwell of Japan and Valarie and Brian Wallin of Minnesota; and 12 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her first husband, Harvey Elson, in 1945; her second husband, Verne Rockwell, whom she married in 1947 and who died in 1971; three brothers and sisters-in-law, Paul and Jeanette Snyder, Glenn and Mae Snyder and Gerald and Thelma Snyder; two nephews, Bill Snyder and Donald Snyder; and a special friend, Charles Shellenbarger.

A service to celebrate Mrs. Rockwell's life will be Saturday at 2 p.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. Tom Smith officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery of Garrett.

Calling will be Saturday from noon to 2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Cameron Home Health Care and Hospice, 416 E. Maumee, Angola, IN 46703.

## Maurice Collins

CAMDEN, Mich. — Maurice D. Collins, 74, of Camden, died Monday, April 16, 2007, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Collins served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean Conflict and was a charter member of the Montgomery post of the American Legion.

He had worked as a carpenter and well driller and retired from Day Industries in Hudson, Mich., after 10 years of employment. He loved gardening and will be remembered by the quote: "When he did something, it was done well."

He was born Dec. 24, 1932, in Butler to Russell and Delsie (Lower) Collins.

He married Audrey Smith on Nov. 10, 1956. She survives.

Also surviving are three daughters and two sons-in-law, Valisa and Ted Toporek of Camden, Mich., Alicia and Ron McLachlan of Montgomery, Mich., and Connie Warner of Gobles, Mich.; three sons and two daughters-in-law, Brad and Mary Rodgers, Rodney Rodgers and Tim and Gwen Rodgers, all of Camden; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Klyta and Jack Refner of Ashley and Jerra Lee Collins of Kendallville; one brother and sister-in-law, Paul and Zella Collins of Butler; 11 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, three brothers and two sisters.

Memorial services will be Friday at 2 p.m. in Camden Missionary Church.

Calling will be Friday from 1:30-2 p.m. at the churdh.

Memorials are to the family.

George White Funeral Home of Reading, Mich., is handling arrangements.

## Billie Wiley

ROME CITY — Billie S. Wiley, 69, of Rome City died Wednesday, April 18, 2007, at Parkview Noble Hospital in Kendallville.

She had retired in 2000 after serving several years as a surgical technician for a hospital in Lansing, Mich.

She was born Feb. 9, 1938, in Virginia.

Surviving are two daughters and a son-in-law, Tina Pankop of Waterloo and Lisa Wiley-Wallace and her husband Robert Wallace of Rome City; a sister, Betty Marsh of Lansing, Mich.; four grandchildren, Peter Pankop, Jerrmiah Helton, Heath Carey and Lyndy Creaver; and one great-grandchild.

No services or calling.

Flowers may be sent to the family at 398 Gale St., Rome City, IN 46784.

David Funeral Home in Kendallville is in charge of arrangements.

Condolences may be sent online to davidfuneralhome.net.

## William Beaman

INDIANAPOLIS — William R. "Roger" Beaman, 55, died Thursday, April 19, 2007.

The son of the late Chester William and Agnes Helen (Coldwell) Beaman, he was a graduate of North Central High School and attended Tri-State University in Angola. He was a sales representative for Dana Corp. for 17 years.

Mr. Beaman was a member of Lake Maxinhall Neighborhood Association and was an avid whitewater kayaker, kayaking the rivers of Grand Canyon, Russell Fork, Gauley River and many others.

Surviving are his wife, Susan Leslie (Heller) Beaman; his sister, Alice Beaman; sisters-in-law, Jean Heller, Terri "Mike" Cripe and their children, Emily and Ben Addis and Nick and Nikole Cripe; parents-in-law, Duane and Rita Heller of Auburn; and his dog, Cassie.

A memorial service will begin at 5 p.m. Sunday in Leppert Mortuary, Nora Chapel, 740 E. 86th St., Indianapolis.

Calling will be Sunday from 3-5 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Wellness Community, 8465 Keystone Crossing No.145, Indianapolis, IN 46240-2453; Friends of Holliday Park, 6363 Spring Mill Road, Indianapolis, IN 46260 or Indianapolis Humane Society, 7929 N. Michigan Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268-1998.

Sign the guest book, leave a personal memory or make a contribution at www.leppert-mortuary.com.

The EVENING STAR
April 2007 Auburn, Indiana
22

# Schermerhorn was a true Hoosier

BY BOB BITTNER
leader@ligtel.com

WAWAKA — John "Stub" Schermerhorn left this life in much the same way he lived it. Nothing too fancy, just a small church service surrounded by people who loved him, knew him and enjoyed telling stories about him.

Schermerhorn, who died on the first day of spring at the age of 88, was a true Hoosier, having lived his entire life on his family's Noble County farm. His grandfather, a Civil War veteran, first carved the family homestead in the 19th century, out of marshlands between Rome City and Wawaka.

Like his father and grandfather, Schermerhorn was a farmer, but he was also a politician, a community leader and a friend to many. Most of all, he left a legacy as a husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather to a large family that cherished their time with him.

His funeral, held at Brimfield United Methodist Church to a standing-room-only audience, turned out to be a two hour and 15 minute tribute that probably would have left "Stub" a little embarrassed, according to those who knew him.

There were many tears shed for John Schermerhorn that day, but they were matched by a lot more laughs, as friend after friend stood up and shared a favorite story of a treasured experience with John.

He was remembered as a man who was always ready to share some of his homespun Hoosier values and advice. "The good Lord gave you two hands," he often said. "One for taking but another for giving." He was constantly longing for the "good old days" when you could buy "three candy bars for a dime."

Schermerhorn's life took a lot of interesting twists and turns for a man who lived out among the soybeans and cornfields.

The focal point of his life were the 67 years spent with his loving wife, Mary, raising their five children, who went on to give their parents a large brood of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. John and Mary have five children: Roger, Larry, J. David, Judy and Mary Jean. They gave their parents 19 grandchildren and 31 great-grandchildren. Mary resides at the North Ridge nursing home in Albion.

While farming was in his blood, John also donated much of his time, and wisdom, to various community causes. He helped run the Noble County Fair for many years and served as chairman of the board for that annual event. He threw his hat (probably a seed company ballcap) into the political ring and served multiple terms on the Noble County Council as well as the Noble County Board of Commissioners.

He was active in his church and his community but somehow always managed to find time for his wife and family, in addition to keeping the family farm afloat.

He was perhaps one of Noble County's truest Republicans and was never shy about telling his grandchildren how to vote.

At his funeral, the stories came freely from friends. Sure, they poked a little fun at him for being stubborn and maybe even a little tight with his wallet. But those traits were recalled as terms of endearment that any man would want to be remembered for.

"Stub" spent a lot of time in the great outdoors hunting, trapping and fishing and he passed along a lot of his knowledge to the second and third generations of his family. Many of those who spoke at his funeral were able to recall something that happened on a fishing trip or trapping excursion in the wetlands of Noble County.

His oldest son, Roger, said his dad will best be remembered for all the relationships he nourished through the years, with his family and business acquaintances and also his many "coffeehouse" friends. "Stub" was a regular at morning gathering spots in Rome City, Albion and Ligonier.

"I'll also never forget his love of nature," said Roger of his dad. "Fancy cars and fancy houses were not important to him. He was always one to tell it like it is. He was very caring for his family and friends. I'll always remember the Christmas Day speeches he used to give, with the family gathered around him."

David Laird of Ligonier was one of those who knew "Stub" from his stops at the Charger House where they drank coffee and tried to solve the world's problems.

"In your life on those rare occasions, for whatever reason, you meet an individual like John Schermerhorn, and that special person that has left his mark on you and everyone else that knew him," Laird recalled. " He was a very special man. John was an original — a one of a kind — who will be missed by me and everyone else that he came in contact with."

Most of the tales told about John revolved around the farm and that's only right. The farm is in the hands of its fourth and fifth generations, with Larry and his son, Nathan, tending to the land.

"Being on the farm with Grandpa is probably the biggest thing I'll remember about him," Nathan recalled. "He was down here about eight times. He would drive around in his pickup truck looking for us. He would drive right onto the field so he could ask us what we were doing and how we are doing and where we were at."

Nathan is proud to be the fifth generation of his family on the Schermerhorn farm. "And I've got a two-and-a-half-year-old son who I hope will be the sixth generation on this land," he said. "I know that would make Grandpa proud."

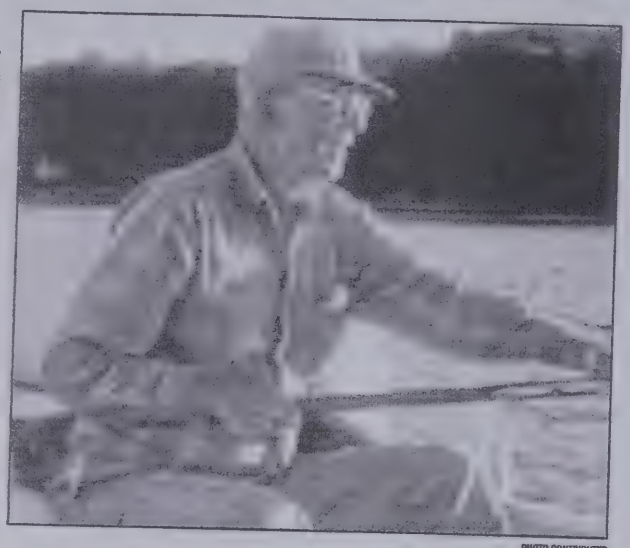


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Here's John Schermerhorn, fishing on Rice Lake in Canada, during a family vacation on the Fourth of July weekend in 2000. Schermerhorn had 19 grandchildren and 31 great-grandchildren and probably spent time fishing with all of them.**

## Harvey Cramer

EDGERTON, Ohio — Harvey G. Cramer, 85, a longtime resident of Edgerton, Ohio, died Friday, April 20, 2007, at 8:15 p.m in Northern Lakes Health Care Center in Angola, where he was a resident.

Mr. Cramer

Mr. Cramer was a truck driver with Meyers Elevator, The Crystal Co. and then with Simpson Industries, retiring in 1983 with 28 years of service. He was member of the Edgerton United Methodist Church and a former member of the Bryan Moose Lodge.

He was born on Feb. 2, 1922, in Stryker, Ohio, the son of Orville J. and Grace (Frank) Cramer.

He married Dessie I. Mock on April 16, 1943, in Auburn, and she survives.

Also surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Larry and Donna Cramer of Coldwater, Mich., and Ronald Cramer of Edgerton, Ohio; three grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; one sister, Marie Trausch of Montpelier, Ohio; and two brothers and a sister-in-law, Lawrence Cramer of Toledo, Ohio, and Ralph and Kathy Cramer of West Jefferson, Ohio.

Mr. Cramer was preceded in death by an infant daughter, Carol Sue Cramer, on May 4, 1944.

Services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. in Krill Funeral Home in Edgerton, Ohio, with Pastor Tim Gleason officiating. Interment will follow in Butler Cemetery.

Calling will be at the funeral home from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. on Tuesday.

Memorials are to the Edgerton United Methodist Church or Fort Wayne Cancer Support.

Condolences may be sent and an online register may be signed at www.krillfuneralservice.com.

## Becky Jacquay-Fluty

AUBURN — Becky Jacquay-Fluty, 50, of Auburn died Sunday, April 22, 2007, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

She was born Sept. 8, 1956, in Fort Wayne, and was a 1974 graduate of Leo High School. She was a member of the Church of Christ in Auburn. She worked as a nurse's aide for several years in Auburn and Fort Wayne.

Surviving are her mother, Carol Reasoner of Auburn; two sons and a daughter-in-law, Tim and Heidi Jacquay of Huntington and Chris Jacquay of Wabash; a brother, Michael Reasoner of Fort Wayne; a sister. Kim Reasoner of Fort Wayne; and four granddaughters, Sierra, Marissa, Lyndsee and Makinzee.

Services will be Wednesday at 10 a.m. at D.O. McComb & Sons Pine Valley Park Funeral Home, 1320 E. Dupont Road, Fort Wayne. Burial will be in Leo Cemetery.

Calling will be Thuesday from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to her family or to Muscular Dystrophy Association Camp, 2869 Dupont Road, Fort Wayne IN 46825.

## Russel Stephens

ALBION — Russel T. Stephens, 87, of Avilla died at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 3, 2007, at Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla.

Mr. Stephens

Mr. Stephens had lived in Avilla since 1972.

He was a 30-year veteran of the U.S. Navy where he had attained the rank of captain.

Mr. Stephens was a graduate of Zigler, Ill., Community High School and obtained a bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois Normal University and a master's degree in aeronautical engineering in 1952 while in the Navy.

Mr. Stephens was an active member of the Albion Rotary Club and a Paul Harris Fellow.

He was born Oct. 8, 1919, in Royalton, Ill., to Noah and Elizabeth (Eisenhower) Stephens. He married Kathleen O'Gorman on April 14, 1943, and she died Sept. 9, 2006.

Surviving are his children, Larry and Barbara Stephens of Troy, Ohio, Paul and Susan Stephens of Fort Wayne, Russel Jr. and Theresa Stephens of Fort Wayne, Liza and Robert Breno of Tarriffville, Conn., and Jill and Larry Davidson of Highland; a sister, Mary Emma Stephens of Royalton, Ill.; 10 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Brazzell Funeral Home, Albion Chapel, with Father Jim Quadros officiating. Burial will be in Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

## Aurelia McKee

GARRETT — A memorial Mass for Garrett native Aurelia F. McKee will be Saturday at 11 a.m. in St. Joseph Catholic Church, 300 W. Houston St.

Mrs. McKee, 85, died Feb. 20, 2007, in Cedar Hill, Texas.

She was a production worker at General Electric in Fort Wayne and Electric Motors and Specialties in Garrett. She also was a cashier for the City of Garrett utilities department.

Mrs. McKee moved from Garrett to Grand Prairie, Texas, in 2000 and moved to Cedar Hill, Texas, in January 2007.

She was born Jan. 24, 1922, in DeKalb County to William and Julia (Teders) Fortman.

She married Thomas Johoski in April 1942 in Garrett. He died in July 1960.

She then married Everett McKee of Churubusco in April 1968. He died in September 1980.

Surviving are a son, Robert Johoski, a retired executive in Mason, Ohio; a daughter, Dr. Judith Werner, a family practitioner, in Cedar Hill, Texas; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

## Ellen Wood

AUBURN — Ellen Jean Wood, 63, of Auburn died Sunday, April 22, 2007, at her home after an eight-month battle with cervical cancer.

Mrs. Wood graduated from Auburn High School in 1962. She worked at Magnavox in Auburn until her retirement in 1993. After retiring, she worked part-time around Auburn.

She enjoyed traveling and spending time with her family and friends.

She was born Feb. 14, 1944, to Trevor and Dorothy (Cool) Mavis. Her mother survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are two daughters and a son-in-law, Deb and Tim Frick and Cindy Wood, all of Auburn; a son and daughter-in-law, Walter "TJ" and Melinda Wood of Angola; a brother and sister-in-law, Darell and Mae Mavis of Coldwater, Mich.; a sister and brother-in-law, Evelyn and Michael Greenfield of Auburn; seven grandchildren, Thai Frick, Tyler Frick, Kallie Wood and Marlie Wood, all of Auburn, and Auston Griffin, Logan Wood and Carragan Wood, all of Angola; one great-granddaughter, Alysa Rose Frick of Waterloo; three nieces; and two nephews.

She was preceded in death by her father; a sister, Elenor Mitchell; and two brothers, Dale and Donald Mavis.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Thursday in Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with Pastor Ronald Moore officiating. Burial will be in Farmer Cemetery at Farmer, Ohio.

Calling will be Wednesday from 1-4 p.m. and 5-8 p.m. and Thursday from noon-1 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family.

## Leonard Keller

BLISSFIELD, Mich. — Leonard W. "Skeet" Keller, 74, of Blissfield, Mich., and formerly of Auburn, died Tuesday, April 24, 2007, at his home in Blissfield.

Mr. Keller served in the U.S. Navy from 1952-1960. He worked for Dana Corp. in Auburn as a maintenance worker and groundskeeper for 33 years, retiring in 1997.

He was a member of Moose Lodge 566 in Auburn and American Legion Post 202 in Butler.

He was born Oct. 4, 1932, in DeKalb County to Floyd and Mildred (Rohm) Keller.

He married Marian E. Staup on Oct. 12, 1992. She survives in Blissfield.

Also surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Debra and Dan Schoenherr of Indianapolis; a son and daughter-in-law, Jeffrey and Elaine Keller of Hinsdale, Ill.; two stepchildren, Linda Hamann and her husband, J.C., and James Staup, all of Blissfield; seven grandchildren; four stepgrandchildren; one brother, Eldon LeRoy Keller of Butler; and three sisters, Violet Provines of Butler, Carol Ann Cummings of Auburn and Sharon Sue Surface of Auburn.

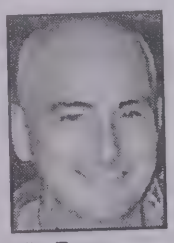
He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Harold Keller and Floyd Keller Jr.

Services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Thursday from 4-8 p.m. at Tagsold Funeral Home, 301 S. Lane St., Blissfield, Mich., and Friday from 4-8 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home in Waterloo.

## Jeffrey Reas

ANGOLA — Jeffrey Lynn Reas, 45, of Angola died Sunday, April 22, 2007, at the Visiting Nurse & Hospice Home in Fort Wayne.


Mr. Reas

Mr. Reas graduated from DeKalb High School in 1980. He enjoyed traveling, spending time with friends and running his own heating and air conditioning business in Memphis, Tenn., before moving back to the area.

Surviving are his parents, James and Marsha (Osmun) Ketner of Angola; three sisters and their spouses, Renee and Kevin Hull of Garrett, Kristina Reas and her companion, Cheryl Crowder, of Fort Wayne and Denise and Don Mettert of Auburn; three nieces, four nephews; two great-nephews; his materal grandmother, Betty Osmun of Auburn; an aunt, Cathie Osmun, and her companion, Dr. Jack Exley, of Red Lodge, Mont.; and a cousin, Jamel Scheuring and her husband, Jason, of Wichita, Kan.

A celebration of his life was held Wednesday at Feller Funeral Home in Waterloo.

Memorials are to Visiting Nurse & Hospice Home, 5910 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46814, or to a charity of the donor's choice.

## William Rowe

GARRETT — William L. "Bill" Rowe, 76, of Garrett died Wednesday, April 25, 2007, at his home.

Mr. Rowe

Mr. Rowe was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War. He worked for No-Sag Spring Co. in Kendallville for 16 1/2 years, and for Hamilton Standard in Auburn for 19 years. He loved ice fishing.

He was born Nov. 7, 1930, in Kendallville to Frank and Olive (Hubbard) Rowe.

On Oct. 19, 1952, in Kendallville, he married Barbara A. Hart. She survives.

Also surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Rick and Patricia Rowe of Garrett and Troy Rowe, also of Garrett; two grandsons, Tony Rowe of Auburn and Matthew Rowe of Garrett; a granddaughter and her husband, Christy and John Goble of Garrett; five great-grandchildren; a brother and sister-in-law, Richard and Sharon Rowe of Waterloo; and a sister and brother-in-law, Carol and Lorin Parr of Garrett.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, Robert Rowe, and a sister, Lorraine Coleman.

There will be no calling or services.

Memorials are to Disabled American Veterans.

To send a condolence or sign a guestbook, visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

## Betty Danalds

AVILLA — Betty J. Danalds, 76, of Avilla died at 3:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 25, 2007, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne following a lengthy illness.

Mrs. Danalds had served as a veterinarian assistant at Dircksen & Johnson in Garrett for 10 years, as a carrier for 20 years for the Journal Gazette, at Wayne Co-op and at Sacred Heart Home.

She had moved to Avilla in 1956 from Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Danalds was a member of Calvary United Methodist Church in Avilla.

She was born May 1, 1930, in Fort Wayne to Harold and Fonderine (Moore) Butler.

Surviving are three daughters, Lu-Anne Brandon of Kendallville, Lori Danalds of Avilla and Lisa Depew and Nick Ott of New Haven; three sons, Steve and Patricia Danalds of Springfield, Mo., Jeffery and Dianna Danalds of Corunna and Eric and Allissa of Auburn; two brothers, Marvin and Diane Butler of Colton, Calif., and William and Jeanie Butler of Garrett; three sisters, Bonnie and William Ogg of Fort Wayne, Beverly Gordon of Fort Wayne and Ameilla Helton of Silver Lake; a brother-in-law, William and Lillian Danalds of Parma, Ohio; 11 grandchildren, Tyler and Elizabeth Danalds, Tiffiny Danalds, Luke and Amy Danalds, Charity Danalds, Tracy Danalds, John Brandson, David Brandson, Megan Danalds, Marissa Depew and Chris Morgan, Katherine Danalds and Katelyn Danalds; and two great-grandchildren, Evan Danalds and Riley Morgan.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a son, Kyle Danalds, in 1977.

Memorial services will be at Calvary United Methodist Church in Avilla on Saturday, May 19. Burial will be in Avilla.

Private family calling will be Saturday.

Memorials are to the Cancer Society.

Brazzell Funeral Home, Avilla Chapel, is in charge of arrangements.

## Rev. Sigmund Hillmer

WATERLOO, Iowa — The Rev. Sigmund W. Hillmer, 86, of Waterloo died Monday, April 23, 2007, at Cedar Falls Lutheran Home.

Rev. Hillmer

He was born Nov. 14, 1920, in Sodus, Mich., to E. Walter and Martha Wietzke Hillmer. He married Ellen Louise Doermann on June 18, 1950, in Kenosha, Wis. She survives in Cedar Falls.

Rev. Hillmer attended Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Mo., and graduated from Wisconsin Synod Seminary in Watertown, Wis., in 1945. He served for the next 40 years as pastor in several communities in Michigan, Minnesota and Indiana, including Corunna and Columbia City, where he retired in 1985. He then served as Pastor of Special Ministries at the Grace Lutheran Church in Waterloo, Iowa, from 1986 on.

Also surviving are four sons, Paul and Cheryl Hillmer of Hudson, John and Jan Hillmer of Tampa, Fla., Phillip and Beverly Hillmer of Champaign, Ill., and Timothy Hillmer of Pittsburgh, Pa.; a daughter, Ann and Dave Jung of Fort Worth, Texas; three brothers, Gerhardt and Betty Hillmer of Madison, Wis., Carl and Carla Hillmer of Woodbury, Minn., and Mark and Bonnie Hillmer of Afton, Minn.; and 10 grandchildren, Christen, Abby, Ansel, Olivia, Lukas, Sarah, Rachel, Becky, Joshua and Sarah.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Grace Lutheran Church with inurnment at a later date in the St. Peter's Cemetery in Columbia City.

Calling will be from 4-7 p.m. Monday at Grace Lutheran Church.

Memorials are to the Grace Lutheran Church.

The Kearns, Huisman—Schumacher Chapel of Kimball is in charge of arrangements.

Online condolences may be sent to www.kearnsfuneralservice.com.

## James Lude

LARWILL — James Robert Lude, 71, of Richland Township in Whitley County died at 9 a.m., Tuesday, April 24, 2007, at his home due to natural causes.

Mr. Lude

Mr. Lude was a farmer and carpenter, retiring in 1997 from Zollner Piston with 34 years of service.

He was a U.S. Army veteran, attended Columbia City Church of the Nazarene and was a member of Farm Bureau and AARP.

He was born Feb. 16, 1936, in Craigville to Robert Samuel and Aldine (Gerber) Lude. When he was a young boy, his family moved to Fort Wayne, where he graduated from Elmhurst High School.

On June 30, 1956, he married Helen Marie Woods. They lived in Fort Wayne until 1972, when they moved to their home in Richland Township. Mrs. Lude died Oct. 26, 2001.

Surviving are four sons and a daughter-in-law, Timothy Lude of Larwill, Doug and Greta Lude of Auburn, Terry Lude of Larwill and Daniel Lude of Columbia City; two daughters and a son-in-law, Natalie Green of Warsaw and Nicole and Chad Brown of Columbia City; 11 grandchildren; a sister, Edith Barrone of Fort Wayne; and two brothers, Theodore Lude of Larwill and Leonard Lude of Fremont.

In addition to his wife, he was preceded in death by a son, David Lee Lude, a brother, John Lude, and a sister, Rosemary Berry.

Services will be Saturday at 10 a.m. in Smith & Sons Funeral Home, 207 N. Main St., Columbia City. The Rev. Thomas Beers, pastor of Columbia City Church of the Nazarene, will officiate. Burial will be in Covington Memorial Gardens at Fort Wayne.

Calling will be Friday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Larwill Lions Club.

Condolences may be sent to www.smithandsonsfuneralhome.com.

## William Rowe

GARRETT — William L. "Bill" Rowe, 76, of Garrett, died Wednesday, April 25, 2007 at his home.

Mr. Rowe

Mr. Rowe was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War. He worked for No-Sag Spring Co. in Kendallville for 16 1/2 years, and for Hamilton Standard in Auburn for 19 years. He loved ice fishing.

He was born Nov. 7, 1930, in Kendallville to Frank and Olive (Hulburt) Rowe.

On Oct. 19, 1952, in Kendallville, he married Barbara A. Hart. She survives.

Also surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Rick and Patricia Rowe of Garrett and Troy Rowe, also of Garrett; two grandsons, Tony Rowe of Auburn and Matthew Rowe of Garrett; a granddaughter and her husband, Christy and John Goble of Garrett; five great-grandchildren; a brother and sister-in-law, Richard and Sharon Rowe of Waterloo; and a sister and brother-in-law, Carol and Lauren Parr of LaOtto.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, Robert Rowe, and a sister, Lorraine Coleman.

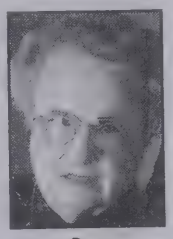
There will be no calling or services.

Memorials are to Disabled American Veterans.

To send a condolence or sign a guestbook, visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

## Dorothy Carper

WATERLOO — Dorothy C. Carper, 76, of Waterloo died Friday, April 27, 2007, at the Laurels of DeKalb Nursing Home in Butler.


Mrs. Carper

Mrs. Carper worked at the Rieke Corp. in Auburn and at Laub's Food Mart in Waterloo before staying home to be a homemaker. She was a member of the New Hope Christian Center in Waterloo.

She was born on Nov. 14, 1930, in Butler to Roscoe and Nellie (Huntington) Yarlot. They preceded her in death.

She married Floyd P. "Bud" Carper Jr. on Dec. 18, 1952, in Auburn. He survives.

Also surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Christine and Timmy Isaac of Kendallville; two grandchildren and a spouse, Michael Isaac and David and Trisha Isaac, all of Kendallville; two great-grandchildren, Lauryn and Zackary Isaac; and two sisters-in-law, Vera Pauline Yarlot of Butler and Ruth Yarlot of Waterloo.

She also was preceded in death by a son, Paul D. Carper; two brothers, Wayne Yarlot and Loren Yarlot; two sisters, Vera Daniels and Leora Farrington; and a grandson, Randy L. Isaac.

Services will be Monday at 11 a.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. Ralph Diehl officiating. Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-6 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the New Hope Christian Center in Waterloo.

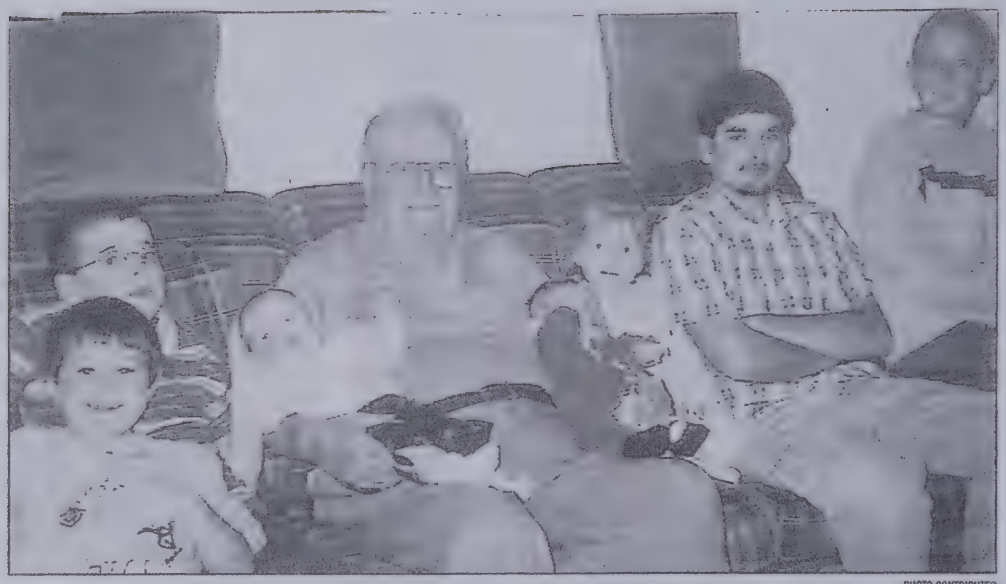


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**The late Carl Workman is shown in his favorite spot – surrounded by his great-grandchildren – in this photo taken a short while before he died on April 5 at the age of 93. Mr. Workman loved children and was well known by several generations of neighborhood kids at his longtime home in Avilla.**

# A friend to all, big and small

BY VIV ROSSWURM
vivianr@kpcnews.net

AVILLA — Carl Workman was all about the children.

Often surrounded by his own children and grandchildren, he took a special interest in every child he met, engaging them in conversation and making them feel important, his granddaughter remembers.

"He often stopped kids who were riding their bikes past his big yellow house on Van Scoyoc Street in Avilla and talked to them," Renae Helmkamp said.

Helmkamp said when she first met her husband, Clay, and found out that he grew up in Avilla, and asked him if he knew her grandparents, Carl and Esther Workman, he responded with enthusiasm.

"Everyone knows the Workmans!" he said. Clay Helmkamp said he and his three siblings loved to stop and talk to the kind and friendly couple during the years they grew up in Avilla.

Mr. Workman liked to spend time with his family, fish, camp and do woodworking.

He often found a way to combine all of his favorite pastimes.

Renae Helmkamp remembers many camping trips to Chain O' Lakes State Park with her family and grandparents and sometimes cousins, aunts and uncles.

"We always had so much fun on those trips," she said. "Grandpa taught everyone to fish, and they all became pretty good at it."

But to Carl Workman's way of thinking the best thing about fishing was frying and eating the fish later in the day.

"I had some cousins who would try to explain their Montana trout fishing trips to Grandpa and told him how they would catch the fish and then release them. He would just shake his head. He could not understand why in the world they would do that," Helmkamp said, laughing.

The Workman yard was filled with skillfully crafted wind chimes, wishing wells, wooden flowers, bird houses and windmills. People walking by would notice the decorative pieces and stop to visit with Carl Workman, who more likely than not could be found on the front porch swing, visiting with whoever happened by. Many of the visitors would order some of the wooden pieces for their own yard.

Although Mr. Workman was an Auburn native and a 1933 graduate of Auburn High School, he made his home in Avilla in 1947 and continued to live there until he was well into his 80s. He was a longtime part-owner, with the late Ralph Housholder, of the Avilla Feed Mills.

He served as a firefighter on the Avilla Fire Department, was on the Avilla Town Board, was active as a Lions Club member and officer and was president of the local PTA. He was also very involved at his church, Calvary United Methodist Church in Avilla, where he served as a Sunday school teacher.

He and his wife, Esther, who died in 1994, had a son, Steve, and a daughter, Sandra. He had four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren whom he adored.

Jim Parker, a close friend of Mr. Workman for 32 years, served as pallbearer at his funeral.

Parker got to know Mr. Workman when he started his business, Diversified Pattern, across the alley from the Workman household.

"He was my security system — my man," Parker said of his pal, who kept a close eye on things in the neighborhood.

Parker said he once went to his office to do some work in the middle of the night and left within 30 minutes.

"The next morning Carl was in my office, telling me when I got here and exactly when I left," Parker said, laughing.

Mr. Workman did a lot for the community, in ways that many never even realized, Parker said.

"He helped anyone who needed help in any way he could. He was the most trustworthy guy I have ever met," Parker said, "and I never heard him say a bad word about anyone."

## Jackie Rowe

KENDALLVILLE — Jackie W. Rowe, 82, formerly of the Cree Lake area, died Friday, April 27, 2007, at North Ridge Village Nursing Home, Albion.

Mr. Rowe

Before moving to North Ridge Village, he resided at the Chandler House in Kendallville for three years.

Mr. Rowe was a World War II veteran. He served with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, landing at Utah Beach during the D-Day invasion and participating in the European campaign and the Battle of the Bulge.

He retired after 30 years from Newman Foundry as a laborer and supervisor. He was a lifetime member of the Francis Vinyard Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2749 in Kendallville, and a member of the 25-year club of Newman Foundry. He loved to walk and stay physically fit, and was an avid outdoorsman.

Mr. Rowe graduated from Waterloo High School in 1943, and was well known in the area for his softball league play during and following his high school years.

In Kendallville on Aug. 7, 1924, he was born to Thelmer Wayne and Harriett Belle (Holman) Rowe.

He married Mary Lucille Hulwick in Kendallville on Aug. 11, 1950. She preceded him in death March 9, 1991.

Surviving are: a daughter, Cindy Raney, Kendallville; a granddaughter, Tracey (Ehret) Morgan, Avilla; a great-granddaughter, Audrey Dennison, Avilla; a brother-in-law, William Hulwick, Kendallville; two sons-in-law, Jerry Raney, Kendallville, and Byron Ehret, Rome City; and several cousins.

In addition to his wife, he was preceded in death by a brother, Jimmie, and his parents.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday at Hite Funeral Home, Kendallville, with the Rev. Birtchell Mosley Jr. officiating.

Burial will be in Lake View Cemetery, Kendallville, with military graveside honors in remembrance of his service to his country by Francis Vinyard VFW Post 2749 of Kendallville.

Pallbearers will be members of the VFW post.

Honorary pallbearers will be Jim Fike, Jerry Raney, Byron Ehret, Carl Hornsberger and all his buddies from Newman Foundry.

Calling will be from 3-8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to a charity of the donor's choice. Condolences may be sent to the family at the Web site www.hitefuneralhome.com.

## Basil Nott

KENDALLVILLE — Basil E. Nott, Jr., 70, of Kendallville, died Saturday, April 28, 2007, at Parkview Noble Hospital, Kendallville.

He was employed at Essex Wire in Ligonier for 30 years and later was employed for about eight years with J. O. Mory in South Milford. He retired from J.O. Mory in 2002.

He graduated from Rome City High School in 1954 and was a member of St. John Lutheran Church in Kendallville. He enjoyed playing golf and fishing.

On Feb. 11, 1937, in Kendallville, he was born to Basil E. Nott Sr. and Grace Eleanor (Bordner) Nott.

He married Carolyn S. Fischer on Aug. 7, 1941. She preceded him in death on April 2, 1997.

Surviving are: his mother, Grace "Pat" Nott Eshelman, Kendallville; a sister and brother-in-law, Juanita "Toni" and John Williamson, Kendallville; a brother and sister-in-law, Tom and Cheryl Nott, South Milford; a daughter and son-in-law, Sherrie and John Larimen, Howe; nieces and nephews and their spouses, Kim and Matt Beerbower, Auburn, Craig and Michelle Conrad, Hickory, N.C., Kelly and Steve Hipskind, Auburn, Tracey and Titus Seward, Big Long Lake, Wolcottville, Kerry and Angie Nott, Big Long Lake, Wolcottville, and Ryan and Jenny Nott, South Milford; and 12 great-nieces and great-nephews.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Monday at Hite Funeral Home, Kendallville, with Rev. Paul B. Griebel officiating. Burial will be in Lake View Cemetery, Kendallville.

Pallbearers will be Kerry and Ryan Nott, Titus and Kaiden Seward, Mitchell Beerbower and John Williamson.

Calling will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday at the funeral home. Memorials are to St. John Lutheran Church.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

## Eugene Shatto

WATERLOO — Eugene C. Shatto, 75, of Waterloo died at 1:30 p.m. Friday, April 27, 2007, at his home.

He retired from Diversified Utility in Fort Wayne and Indiana Decorative in Waterloo. He enjoyed his family, leatherwork, fishing, playing the violin and guitar, traveling and spending time with his children and grandchildren.

Mr. Shatto

Mr. Shatto served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War.

He was born in Hudson on Dec. 25, 1931, to John C. and Mina V. (Hanes) Shatto.

Surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Eugene and Kim Shatto, Albion, and DeWayne Shatto, Angola; two daughters and a son-in-law, Rosalynda Hasch, Angola, and Gloria and Gene Rowe, Pleasant Lake; 12 grandchildren, Nathan Shatto, Brandy and Luke Myers, Berlin Frederick and Elizabeth (Hunter) Hasch II, Rachael Hasch, Angel Hasch and Crystal Hasch, all of Angola, William (Corky) Rowe, Ashley, Thomas and Michelle Rowe, Hudson, Larry and Deb Rowe, Auburn, Josh and Sarah Forker, Avilla, Jessica Forker and Emilee Treesh, both of Auburn; a sister, Julia Swihart, LaGrange; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, Guy and Ellsworth Shatto, a son-in-law, Berlin Frederick Hasch, a daughter-in-law, Rita Shatto, a sister-in-law, Margaret Taylor, and two brothers-in-law, Richard and Dean Holsinger.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday at Johnson Funeral Home, 612 N. Main St., Hudson, with Pastor Michael Dillon officiating.

Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery with Orland American Legion Post 423 conducting military honors.

Pallbearers will be Dale Barkey, Bob and Norb Miller, Neil Ramey, Jim Dunn and Mike and Josh Rowe.

Calling will be Tuesday from 2-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Condolences may be sent online at Johnson@bnin.net.

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## Wilbur Maurer

GARRETT — Wilbur Lee Maurer, 67, of Garrett died Saturday, April 28, 2007, at his home.

Mr. Maurer was a lifetime farmer in Keyser Township. He worked at Newman Foundry and then at Colwell General before working as a security guard for Alcoa Industries. He retired from Alcoa in 2005.

On Dec. 27, 1939, in Garrett, he was born to Oliver P. and Ilene (Johnson) Maurer.

Surviving are a daughter, Ilene Maurer, Garrett; two grandchildren, Andrew Lee Wertman and James Preston Orick Maurer; three brothers, Paul Maurer, Eagle Town, Okla., Wayne Maurer, Kendallville, and Herman Maurer, Garrett; and two sisters, Florence Outwater and Helen Savage, both of Bronson, Mich.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery, Garrett.

Calling will be Monday from 4-8 p.m.at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society.

## Russell Hollinger

BUTLER — Russell Allen Hollinger, 87, of Butler died Friday, April 27, 2007.

Mr. Hollinger was a retired carpenter and mason.

He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and was an avid model plane builder.

On Feb. 5, 1920, in Butler, he was born to Ross and Ethel (Krontz) Hollinger.

He married Joann Mitchner on July 20, 1947, in Auburn. She survives.

Mr. Hollinger

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Dennis and Gay Hollinger, Westville, Ind.; two daughters and sons-in-law, Kay and Jerry Norton, Butler, and Kim and Brian Burdick, Leo; seven grandchildren, Nathan Hollinger, Chad and Jamie Norton, Troy and Amy Norton, Jessica Norton, Joshua Burdick, Jason Burdick and Jeremy Burdick; three great-grandchildren, Chase, Grace and Lydia Norton; and a brother and sister-in-law, Richard and Lucile Nichols, Auburn.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday in the Butler United Methodist Church with Pastor Justin Fisher officiating. Burial will be in Butler Cemetery with military honors by the Butler post of the American Legion.

Calling will be from 2-8 p.m. Monday at H. E. Johnson & Son Funeral Home, Butler.

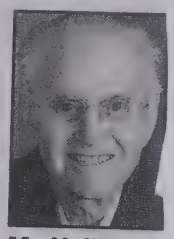
Memorials are to the Butler United Methodist Church.

Condolences may be sent and a video tribute may be seen at www.hejohnsonfh.com.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** *is being reprinted with revised information about surviving relatives.*

## Russell Hollinger

BUTLER — Russell Allen Hollinger, 87, of Butler died Friday, April 27, 2007.



**Mr. Hollinger**

Mr. Hollinger was a retired carpenter and mason.

He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and was an avid model plane builder.

On Feb. 5, 1920, in Butler, he was born to Ross and Ethel (Krontz) Hollinger.

He married Joann Mitchener on July 20, 1947, in Auburn. She survives.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Dennis and Gay Hollinger, Westfield; two daughters and sons-in-law, Kay and Jerry Norton, Butler, and Kim and Brian Burdick, Leo; seven grandchildren, Nathan Hollinger, Chad and Jamie Norton, Troy and Amy Norton, Jessica Norton, Joshua Burdick, Jason Burdick and Jeremy Burdick; three great-grandchildren, Chase, Grace and Lydia Norton; and a brother and sister-in-law, Richard and Lucile Hollinger of Fort Wayne; and two sisters, Edith Getts of Hamilton and Lucille Nichols of Auburn.

Services will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. in the Butler United Methodist Church with Pastor Justin Fisher officiating. Burial will be in Butler Cemetery with military honors by the Butler post of the American Legion.

Calling will be from 2-8 p.m. today at H. E. Johnson & Son Funeral Home, Butler.

Memorials are to the Butler United Methodist Church.

Condolences may be sent and a video tribute may be viewed at www.hejohnsonfh.com.

## Willard Collingsworth

BUTLER — Willard G. Collingsworth, 73, of Butler died Saturday, April 28, 2007, at Community Hospital and Wellness Center in Bryan, Ohio.

Mr. Collingsworth worked at Bohn Aluminum in Butler, retiring in 1999.

He was born April 12, 1934, in Blackwater, Va., to Nathan and Rettie (Levacey) Collingsworth.

He married Janet Fry on April 26, 1975, in Hicksville, Ohio. She survives.

Also surviving are 11 children and their spouses, Denny Richmond of Coldwater, Mich., Rhonda Rockenback of Angola, Jamie Cobbs of Coldwater, Mich., Regina Lee of Wyoming, Donald Poe of Edgerton, Ohio, Brenda Hawkins of Iowa, Tom and Nancy Cluster of Butler, Bruce and Anna Meyer of Auburn, Mike and Cindy Reese of LaOtto, Tim Poe of Butler and Kim Burns of Edgerton, Ohio; 29 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; five sisters, Evie Sage and Mary Fisher, both of Blackwater, Va., Cleo Smith of Kingsport, Tenn., and Alice Shoopy and Gladys Whittle, both of Pontiac, Ill.; and three brothers and two sisters-in-law, Lloyd Collingsworth of Blackwater, Va., Luther and Pat Collingsworth of Butler, and Millard and Pauline Collingsworth of Auburn.

He was preceded in death by his parents; three brothers, Charles, Frank and Roy Collingsworth; one sister, Liz Hall; and one brother-in-law, Elmer Fisher.

Services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with Dale Rabineau officiating. Burial will be in Butler Cemetery.

Calling will be Tuesday from 5-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Christ's Church in Butler.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** *is being reprinted to correct errors and omissions.*

## Eugene Shatto

WATERLOO — Eugene C. Shatto, 75, of Waterloo died at 1:30 p.m. Friday, April 27, 2007, at his home.

**Mr. Shatto**

He retired from Diversified Utility in Fort Wayne and Indiana Decorative in Waterloo. He enjoyed his family, leatherwork, fishing, playing the violin and guitar, traveling and spending time with his children and grandchildren.

Mr. Shatto served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War.

He was born in Hudson on Dec. 25, 1931, to John C. and Mina V. (Hanes) Shatto.

Surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Eugene and Kim Shatto, Albion, and DeWayne Shatto, Angola; two daughters and a son-in-law, Rosalynda Hasch, Angola, and Gloria and Gene Rowe, Pleasant Lake; 12 grandchildren, Nathan Shatto, Brandy and Luke Myers, Berlin Frederick and Elizabeth (Hunter) Hasch II, Rachael Hasch, Angel Hasch and Crystal Hasch, all of Angola, William (Corky) Rowe, Ashley, Thomas and Michelle Rowe, Hudson, Larry and Deb Rowe, Auburn, Josh and Sarah Forker, Avilla, Jessica Forker and Emilee Treesh, both of Auburn; 12 great-grandchildren; a sister, Julia Swihart, LaGrange; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, Guy and Ellsworth Shatto, a son-in-law, Berlin Frederick Hasch, a daughter-in-law, Rita Shatto, a sister-in-law, Margaret Taylor, and two brothers-in-law, Richard and Dean Holsinger.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday at Johnson Funeral Home, 612 N. Main St., Hudson, with Pastor Michael Dillon officiating. Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery with Orland American Legion Post 423 conducting military honors. Pallbearers will be Dale Barkey, Bob and Norb Miller, Neil Ramey, Jim Dunn and Larry Rowe and Josh Forker.

Calling will be Tuesday from 2-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Condolences may be sent online at Johnson@bnin.net.

The EVENING STAR
May 1 2007 Auburn, Indiana

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** *is being reprinted with additional information about relatives.*

## Wilbur Maurer

GARRETT — Wilbur Lee Maurer, 67, of Garrett died Saturday, April 28, 2007, at his home.

Mr. Maurer was a lifetime farmer in Keyser Township. He worked at Newman Foundry and then at Colwell General before working as a security guard for Alcoa Industries. He retired from Alcoa in 2005.

On Dec. 27, 1939, in Garrett, he was born to Oliver P. and Ilene (Johnson) Maurer.

Surviving are a daughter, Ilene Maurer, Garrett; two grandchildren, Andrew Lee Wertman and James Preston Orick Maurer; three brothers, Paul Maurer, Eagle Town, Okla., Wayne Maurer, Kendallville, and Herman Maurer, Garrett; and two sisters, Florence Outwater and Helen Savage, both of Bronson, Mich.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Herbert Maurer and John Maurer.

Services were at 11 a.m. today at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Burial was in Calvary Cemetery at Garrett.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society.

## Ruth Schoof

AUBURN — Ruth "Goose" Schoof, 75, of Auburn died Monday, April 30, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mrs. Schoof worked at Eagle-Picher in Grabill for 28 years, retiring in 1991.

She especially enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren, who called her "Grandma Goose."

She was born Jan. 2, 1932, to Nellie and Albert Garman of Grabill.

She was married to Eugene "Porky" Schoof for 26 years, until his death in 1988.

Surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Marsha and Fred Robinson of Fort Wayne and Helen and Don Robinson of Corunna; four sons and daughters-in-law, Rick "Stick" and Imogene Schoof of Auburn, Robert and Doris Schoof of St. Joe, Michael and Carol Schoof of Hoagland and Toby and Beth Schoof of Woodburn; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Frank and Linda Garman of Harlan and Louis "Pete" and Ruth Garman of Corunna; a sister, Janet Grier of Waterloo; 22 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and two stepgreat-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by four brothers, Ralph, John, Lloyd and Robert Garman; four sisters, Maxine Taylor, Phyllis Fowler, Mary Timma and Janice Garman; and two grandsons, Richard "Clay" Schoof and Matthew Robinson.

A memorial service will be Thursday at 7 p.m. in St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1910 N. Berthaud Road, New Haven. Burial will be in Highland Park Cemetery at a later date.

Calling will be Thursday from 6-7 p.m. at the church..

Memorials are to Cancer Services of Allen County Inc., DeKalb Home Health Care & Hospice or a charity of the donor's choice.

Arrangements are by Advantage Funeral & Cremation Services.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** *is being reprinted with revised information about surviving relatives.*

## Willard Collingsworth

BUTLER — Willard G. Collingsworth, 73, of Butler died Saturday, April 28, 2007, at Community Hospital and Wellness Center in Bryan, Ohio.

Mr. Collingsworth worked at Bohn Aluminum in Butler, retiring in 1999.

He was born April 12, 1934, in Blackwater, Va., to Nathan and Rettie (Levacey) Collingsworth.

He married Janet Fry on April 26, 1975, in Hicksville, Ohio. She survives.

Also surviving are 11 children and their spouses, Denny and Pam Richmond of Coldwater, Mich., Rhonda and Alan Baugh of Angola, Jamie and Kay Kolb of Coldwater, Mich., Regina Lee of Wyoming, Donald Poe of Edgerton, Ohio, Brenda Hawkins of Iowa, Tom and Nancy Cluster of Butler, Bruce and Anna Meyer of Auburn, Mike and Cindy Reese of LaOtto, Tim Poe of Butler and Kim Burns of Edgerton, Ohio; 29 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren; five sisters, Evie Sage and Mary Fisher, both of Blackwater, Va., Cleo Smith of Kingsport, Tenn., and Alice Shoopy and Gladys Whittle, both of Pontiac, Ill.; and three brothers and two sisters-in-law, Lloyd Collingsworth of Blackwater, Va., Luther and Pat Collingsworth of Butler, and Millard and Pauline Collingsworth of Auburn.

He was preceded in death by his parents; three brothers, Charles, Frank and Roy Collingsworth; one sister, Liz Hall; and one brother-in-law, Elmer Fisher.

Services were held today at 11 a.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with Dale Rabineau officiating. Burial was in Butler Cemetery.

Memorials are to Christ's Church in Butler.

The EVENING STAR
May 3 2007 Auburn, Indiana

## Evelyn Dammeier-McAbee

HAMILTON — Evelyn Jean Dammeier-McAbee, 81, of Hamilton and formerly of Fort Wayne, died Tuesday, May 1, 2007, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

**Mrs. Dammeier-McAbee**

Mrs. Dammeier-McAbee worked at and retired from General Electric in Fort Wayne.

She was a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church, the General Electric Elex Club, the Hamilton Fish and Game Club and the Loyal Order of the Moose in Angola.

She was born Feb. 28, 1926, in Fort Wayne to Joseph and Beatrice Leffers.

She married Donald Dammeier on May 26, 1946, and he preceded her in death on June 30, 1992.

She married Ronald McAbee on Sept. 13, 1995, and he died April 13, 2007.

Surviving are three sons, Jeffrey Dammeier of Fort Wayne, Douglas Dammeier of Olympia, Wash., and Brian Dammeier of Tacoma, Wash.; two daughters, Dawn Baysinger of Hamilton and Laurie Dammeier of Huntertown; three stepsons, Phil McAbee of Pittsburgh, Pa., Doug McAbee of San Francisco, Calif., and Dennis McAbee of Phoenix, Ariz.; a stepdaughter, Peggy McAbee of Phoenix; four sisters, Eileen Roach, Helen Bauer, Marylou Bodecker and Millie Hursh, all of Fort Wayne; nine grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by three sisters, Dorothy Till, Geraldine Gray and Marjorie Houser.

Services will be Saturday at 3 p.m. in St. Michael's Catholic Church, 1098 C.R. 39, Waterloo, with Father David Carkenord officiating. Burial will be in Catholic Cemetery at Fort Wayne.

Calling will be Friday from 2-4 and 6- 8 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. A rosary service will begin at 4 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to St. Michael's Catholic Church.

The EVENING STAR
May 4 2007 Auburn, Indiana

## Gilbert Lawhead

GARRETT — Gilbert E. Lawhead, 69, of Garrett died Thursday, May 3, 2007, at 8:06 a.m. in Hospice Home of Northeast Indiana, Fort Wayne.

Mr. Lawhead owned the Lawhead Union 76 filling station in Garrett and was active in business until three months ago.

He was born Oct. 5, 1937, in Auburn to Archie R. and Thelma B. (Elsner) Lawhead. They preceded him in death.

He married Laura E. Hensinger on Jan. 20, 1968, in Garrett, and she survives.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Brian and Jennifer Lawhead of Garrett; a grandson, Brian P. Lawhead II of Garrett; a granddaughter, Devin Harpel of Garrett; and a brother, Nixon Lawhead of Sierra Vista, Ariz.

Services will be Monday at 10 a.m. in Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family.

Condolences may be left and an online register book may be signed at www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

The EVENING STAR
May 5 2007 Auburn, Indiana

# Russell Kruse, 84, founder of Kruse International, dies

AUBURN — Russell Wayne Kruse, 84, of Auburn, died Friday morning, May 4, 2007, in Lutheran Hospital at Fort Wayne after suffering a massive stroke.

Mr. Kruse

Mr. Kruse founded the auction company that became Kruse International, one of the world's leading auction companies for collector cars.

He was one of the founders of the annual Labor Day auction of collector cars in Auburn, which began in 1971. Money raised by the auction made it possible to create the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum.

Mr. Kruse began his working life as a farmer, helping his father, Fred Kruse, and father-in-law, Lester Boger.

He attended Reppert's Auction School in 1952, and during his career he conducted auctions in Canada, Europe and across America. He was an appraiser, Realtor and auctioneer for 50 years.

He was active in local, state and national auctioneers' boards and was made an honorary member after 50 years of service. He was chairman of the Indiana Auction Commission. He appraised for the Veterans Administration. He was a past president of the DeKalb County United Fund and was the only person to serve as its president for two consecutive terms.

He was a member and past president of the DeKalb County American Red Cross and was a member of the DeKalb County Fair Board for 10 years, serving as vice president. He was chief auctioneer for the DeKalb County 4-H auction for 48 years. He was president of the Indiana Auctioneers Association, serving as its president in 1962, and a member of the Indiana State Auctioneers Association Hall of Fame,

He was a member of the DeKalb County Farm Bureau and a founding member of the executive board of DeKalb Memorial Hospital. He was president of the Northeast Indiana Board of Realtors and had been named a Sagamore of the Wabash.

Mr. Kruse was known for singing "Back Home Again In Indiana" at all Kruse auctions he attended. He also sang "The Star Spangled Banner" at many large auctions.

He was born Dec. 9, 1922, to Fred and Goldie (Gerig) Kruse in the Kruse homestead farmhouse at the corner of C.R. 29 and C.R. 68 in DeKalb County.

He married Luella Boger 18 years later and they had seven children.

He married Lyubov Koutsova of St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1998 and she survives.

Also surviving are four sons and daughters-in-law, Dean and Kristin (McGrade) Kruse of Auburn, David and Patricia (Worsham) Kruse of Auburn, Dennis and Kay (Yerden) Kruse of Auburn and Daniel and Candice (Rink) Kruse of San Antonio, Texas; two daughters and sons-in-law, Diann Kruse Ferris and Steve Ferris of Vernal, Utah, and Debbie Kruse Shoaff and Mike Shoaff of Leo; a daughter-in-law, Jackie (Weller) Kruse of Auburn; 22 grandchildren, Mitchell Kruse, Stuart Kruse, Dima Kruse, Devin Kruse, Andrew Kruse, Shannon Kruse, Dane Kruse, Janelle Kruse, Matthew Kruse, John Kruse, Timothy Kruse, Daniel Kruse, Jade Lemery, Thatcher Ferris, Jacob Ferris, Trenton Ferris, Tiffany Kruse, Tedra Kruse, Tara Puckett, Philip Shoaff, Rachel Shoaff and Jessica Shoaff; a stepson, Kevin, and his wife, Maureen, of Lafayette; three stepgrandchildren, Ben, Aaron and Chad; 19 great-grandchildren; and two sisters, Helen (Kruse) Rowe of Auburn and Ruth Doris (Kruse) Moreland of Toronto.

He was preceded in death by a son, Derald, and a brother, Herald.

Services will be Monday at 11 a.m. in the County Line Church of God, south of Auburn. Three of Mr. Kruse's grandsons, Mitchell, Stuart and Dane Kruse, all of whom are pastors, will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery at Auburn.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-8 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn.

Memorials are to the World War II Victory Museum, P.O. Box 1, Auburn, IN 46706.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** *is being reprinted to correct errors.*

## Eugene Shatto

WATERLOO — Eugene C. Shatto, 75, of Waterloo died at 1:30 p.m. Friday, April 27, 2007, at his home.

He retired from Diversified Utility in Fort Wayne and Indiana Decorative in Waterloo. He enjoyed his family, leatherwork, fishing, playing the violin and guitar, traveling and spending time with his children and grandchildren.

Mr. Shatto served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War.

He was born in Hudson on Dec. 25, 1931, to John C. and Mina V. (Hanes) Shatto.

Surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Eugene and Kim Shatto, Albion, and DeWayne Shatto, Angola; two daughters and a son-in-law, Rosalynda Hasch, Angola, and Gloria and Gene Rowe, Pleasant Lake; 12 grandchildren, Nathan Shatto, Brandy and Luke Myers, Berlin Frederick and Elizabeth (Hunter) Hasch II, Rachel Hasch, Angela Hasch and Crystal Hasch, all of Angola, William (Corky) Rowe, Ashley, Thomas and Michelle Rowe, Hudson, Larry and Deb Rowe, Auburn, Josh and Sarah Forker, Avilla, Jessica Forker and Emilee Treesh, both of Auburn; 12 great-grandchildren; a sister, Julia Swihart, LaGrange; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, Guy and Ellsworth Shatto, a son-in-law, Berlin Frederick Hasch, a daughter-in-law, Rita Shatto, a sister-in-law, Margaret Taylor, and two brothers-in-law, Richard and Dean Holsinger.

Services were Wednesday at Johnson Funeral Home, 612 N. Main St., Hudson, with Pastor Michael Dillon officiating. Burial was in Fairfield Cemetery with Orland American Legion Post 423 conducting military honors. Pallbearers were Dale Barkey, Bob and Norb Miller, Neil Ramey, Jim Dunn and Larry Rowe and Josh Forker.

Condolences may be sent online at Johnson@bnin.net.

## Gwynn Harris

LAKELAND, Fla. — Gwynn Lee Harris, 74, died April 26, 2007, in Lakeland, Fla., losing her battle with cancer.

She was active member of the North Lakeland Presbyterian Church. She also was involved in the Son Shiners Bible study and prayer group, the Cypress Lakes Women's Golf League, the curtain time players, several card clubs and volunteering in the Lakeland Regional Medical Hospital's surgical waiting room.

She was born Jan. 11, 1933, to George and Helen Wade of St. Joe.

She graduated from Garrett High School in 1951 and married Dwayne Harris on May 30, 1951.

Surviving are two daughters, Jill Lynn of Independence, Ohio, and Jan of Orlando, Fla.; a son, Mark of Auburn; 10 grandchildren, Joey, Macie, and Hallie Zumack, Alex and Samuel Blu Harris, Grayson and Anthony Saleeba, and Brody, Braden and Brant Langham; and her siblings, Pete Wade of Angola, Karen Hathaway of South Whitley and Mick Shafer of Omaha, Neb.

She was preceded in death by two children, Scott and Jill Lee.

A memorial service will be June 15 at 2 p.m. at the First Church of Christ in Garrett.

The EVENING STAR
May 6 2007 Auburn, Indiana

# Showalter was advocate for seniors

BY MICHAEL MARTURELLO
mikem@kpcnews.net

ANGOLA — When Anita Showalter became involved in the Steuben County Council on Aging, it was lookout world.

Mrs. Showalter, who died April 19, 2007 in Angola at age 85, left behind a long legacy, particularly when it came to serving the older residents of Steuben County and Indiana.

Mrs. Showalter was often quoted in the local newspaper as she — often with her partner Ida Thorpe — worked to advance issues for older residents, especially in her role as president of the Steuben County Council on Aging during the early 1980s.

When she was appointed by Gov. Robert Orr in 1981 to serve as an Indiana observer to the White House Conference on Aged and Aging, Showalter went at it with zeal.

"As president of the council, I felt it was something I wanted to be part of in order to learn more about the things that affect the senior citizens in the country, especially in the state and in this county," Showalter said in an interview with the Herald-Republican.

Showalter was instrumental in spearheading or working toward creation of numerous programs that would benefit local senior citizens. She was instrumental in getting local stores to provide discounts to seniors, and worked on numerous other issues that ended up making their way before the Indiana Legislature.

Showalter and Thorp pushed for generic drug laws, in-home health care, nursing home inspections and other things that are common place today.

Mrs. Showalter

While serving as delegates in the Older Hoosier Assembly, it was Showalter and Thorp who penned draft legislation that would end up going before the Legislature.

Eventually Showalter would end up getting federal appoinments by U.S. Rep. Dan Coats and met with first lady Barbara Bush. She served on Coats' Senior Advisory Committee.

Showalter was one of the founders of the local Council on Aging and served on its board of directors until last year.

While Showalter perhaps was best known in the Steuben County community as an advocate for older residents, she also was very involved in numerous community organizations.

She was a musician who served as a classical music disc jockey on radio station WEAX 88.3, Angola, that broadcasts from the Tri-State University campus. She was a choir director and a pianist for several churches in the area. She aworked at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

She was a member of many civic organizations, including serving as a past president of the Steuben County Republican Women, the Steuben County Woman's Club and the Area Three Council on Aging. She was also a member of Kiwanis, Business and Professional Women, the Toastmasters Club, Scott Neighbors, Mirth Masters, Purdue Chorale, Francis Elliot Clark Music Club, Parliamentarians, Friends of the Carnegie Library and the Farnsworth Chorliers.

She was named a Hoosier Woman of the Year and a Herald-Republican woman of the year for her many outstanding contributions to the community.

Showalter and her husband of 59 years, Alan, traveled extensively, visiting 49 of the 50 United States.

Mrs. Showalter had numerous friends in the Angola community and beyond. She seemed inseparable from her colleague, Ida Throp, who preceded her in death. Still, Mrs. Thorp was still listed as an honorary pallbearer at Showalter's funeral. Others included Hugh Miller, Lucille Whitman, Ruth Edington, Marcy Lovejoy, Jouce Covell, Sue Garber, Marion Eberhart, Gerry and Gary Reynolds and Tom Schoonover.

## DeAnna Watkins

LAGRANGE — DeAnna L. Watkins, 47, of LaGrange died at 4:30 p.m. Friday, May 4, 2007, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne of complications from diabetes.

Ms. Watkins

Ms. Watkins was a child care provider most of her life. She was previously employed at Master Craft in Shipshewana and Shell Speedy Mart in LaGrange.

She was always keeping her family and friends updated on current weather conditions, always acknowledging their birthdays on WLKI radio station and entertaining them with jokes at all hours of the night. She loved the children she cared for and they loved her.

She was born Feb. 9, 1960, in Auburn to Larry G. and Mary L. (Brown) Watkins.

Surviving are her mother, a daughter, Jessica M. Speicher of Muncie; two sons, Adam D. Speicher and Tony L. Speicher, both of LaGrange; three brothers and three sisters-in-law, Larry (Mel) and Lori Watkins of Porter, John and Cindy Watkins of Angola, Jim and LeighAnn Watkins of Ashley; two sisters and two brothers-in-law, Rose and Gary Michael of Fremont, Becky and Terry Owen of Allen, Mich.; and a number of nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her father; two sisters, Shannon Watkins in 1967 and Jeanie Recore in 1996.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Carney-Frost Funeral Home in LaGrange with the Rev. Russell Heppler of Plato United Methodist Church officiating. Burial will be at Flint Cemetery in Angola.

Calling will be from 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Tony L. Speicher Trust.

Condolences may be sent online to Condolences@earthlink.net.

## Janna Praul

BUTLER — Janna Praul, 77, formerly of Butler died Saturday, May 5, 2007, at Betz Nursing Home.

Mrs. Praul was a homemaker and cook.

She was born April 12, 1930, in LaGrange to Maynard and Lula (Fleck) Timmis. She married Lloyd E. Praul on Nov. 6, 1964, in Butler. He died in 1986.

Surviving are three sons and a daughter-in-law, Bill and Jo Praul of Wolcottville, Al Praul of Hicksville, Ohio, and Jerry Worman of Florida; a daughter and son-in-law, Connie and Kenny Stringfellow of Wawaka; 10 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two brothers, Arthur and Charles Timmis; two sisters, Janice Timmis and Darlene Snyder.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at H.E. Johnson & Son Funeral Home in Butler with Pastor James Robbins officiating. Burial will be at Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Butler.

Calling will be from 2 to 6 p.m. Monday.

Memorials are to the American Diabetes Association.

Condolences may be sent to www.hejohnsonfh.com.

## Stanley Perry

EDGERTON, Ohio — Stanley S. Perry, 60, of Edgerton, Ohio, died Friday, May 4, 2007, at 10:06 p.m., shortly after admittance to Sparrow Hospital in Lansing, Mich., after competing in a race at Spartan Motor Speedway in Mason, Mich.

Mr. Perry

Mr. Perry was the owner of Stan Perry Excavating in Edgerton, Ohio, since 1970 and was a well-known race car driver in the tri-state area, currently competing with McNalley-Perry Racing. His family gave a special thanks to John McNalley, "His Little Buddy," and the entire McNalley-Perry Race Team.

Mr. Perry was beginning his 40th year in racing, predominantly in the Super Late Model Division. Over the years he held track championships at Bryan Motor Speedway, Avilla Motor Speedway, Angola Motor Speedway and Baer Field Motor Speedway. In 2006 he was named Sportsman of the Year at Spartan Motor Speedway and he was also a member of the Avilla Motor Speedway Hall of Fame.

He was a member of St. Mary Catholic Church in Edgerton, Ohio.

He was born March 12, 1947, in Bryan, Ohio, to Leighton Wayne and Elizabeth Margene (Dietsch) Perry.

He married Konnie Kay Akey on May 21, 1966, in Edgerton, Ohio, and she survives.

Also surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Shelley and Jack Landis and Camie and Rob Hicks, all of Edgerton, Ohio; one son and daughter-in-law, Bud and Amy Perry of Edgerton, Ohio; seven grandchildren, five brothers and sisters-in-law, Edward Perry and Lori Balser, Hugh and Jane Perry, Lionel Perry and Wendy Miller and Monte and Jackie Perry, all of Edgerton, Ohio, and Tod and Ann Perry, of Hicksville, Ohio; five sisters and three brothers-in-law, Angela Kennerk, Mary and Darrin Jones and Beth and Jeff Winzler, all of Edgerton, Ohio, Candace and Don Conley, of Edisto Beach, S.C., and Jestine Schmitt, of Monroe, N.C.; and his in-laws, Pete and Gladys Akey of St. Joe.

He was preceded in death by his parents, one brother, Kevin Perry, one nephew, Thomas Kennerk, and one niece, Alicia Pike.

Services will be Thursday at 10:30 a.m. in St. Mary Catholic Church with Father Stephen Schroeder officiating. Burial will follow in St. Mary Cemetery in Edgerton, Ohio.

Calling will be at Krill Funeral Home in Edgerton, Ohio, from 4-8 p.m. Tuesday and from 2-8 p.m. Wednesday, with a Scripture service at 8 p.m. Wednesday.

Memorials are to St. Mary Catholic School.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** *is being reprinted to include additional information.*

## David Woods

MICHIGAN CITY — David Leon Woods, 42, died Friday, May 4, 2007, in Michigan City.

Mr. Woods

In his last wishes, he wanted "to send the message to everyone around the world to have peace through forgiveness."

He was born Aug. 7, 1964, in Fort Wayne. His father was Jerry Lee Woods. His mother, Mary Lucinda Pilkinton, survives in Fort Wayne.

Also surviving are three sisters, Lora Litzenberg of Woodburn, Marjorie Holmes of Gaffney, S.C., and Mary Ann Pilkinton of Fort Wayne; and two brothers, Jess Pilkinton of Fairbanks, Alaska, and Matthew Pilkinton of Phoenix, Ariz.

Private family services were held at McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home in Auburn.

## Kathryn Gilbert

AUBURN — Kathryn A. Gilbert, 92, died Monday, May 7, 2007, at Bethlehem Woods Nursing Home in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Gilbert

Mrs. Gilbert worked at General Electric in Fort Wayne as a machine winder and was a member of the Elex Club of Fort Wayne and the Quarter Century Club. She was a member of the Indian Village Church of God in Auburn.

She ws born Sept. 20, 1914, in DeKalb County to Frank and Clare (Sloffer) Weller.

She married Carl Gilbert in Greensburg. He died in 1979.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, James W. Worman Jr. and Linda Worman of North Fort Myers, Fla.; a brother, Miles Weller of Garrett; a sister, Marion Shoudel of Leo; seven grandchildren; and two great-great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a brother, Floyd Weller; and two sisters, Leona Ihrie and Grace Roop.

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. at the Indian Village Church of God in Auburn. The Rev. Raymond Warner will officiate. Burial will be in Cedar Creek Cemetery of Garrett.

Calling will be Thursday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo.

Memorials are to the Indian Village Church of Good Food Bank, 602 Erie Pass, Auburn, IN 46706.

## Rosalind Storer

AUBURN — Rosalind Ann Storer, 64, of Auburn died Tuesday morning, May 8, 2007, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

She worked as a nurse's aide at DeKalb Memorial Hospital and also worked at Grabill Cabinets sanding cabinets. She was a member of the St. Joe Church of Christ.

She was born Nov. 9, 1942, in Garrett to Wayne DeWitt "Pete" and Pauline (Busz) Storer. They preceded her in death.

Surviving are her stepmother, Marcelle Elaine (Rediger) Storer of St. Joe; a brother and sister-in-law, Jerry Wayne and Meredith Storer of St. Joe; a sister, Debra Jo Storer of St. Joe; a sister-in-law, Debra Rae Storer of Austin, Texas; and eight nephews and nieces.

She was preceded in death by a sister, Aimee Lou Storer, in 1941, and a brother, Michael David Storer, in 1995.

Services will be Thursday at 3 p.m. in the St. Joe Church of Christ.

Calling will be Thursday from 1-3 p.m. at the church.

Memorials are to Sunny Meadows, 2315 C.R. 40, Auburn, IN 46706.

Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home of Spencerville is handling arrangements.

## Matthew Morgan

SPENCERVILLE — Matthew Roy Morgan, 51, of Spencerville died Monday, May 7, 2007, at his home in Spencerville.

Mr. Morgan worked as a registered nurse at Parkview Hospital for 30 years and recently at St. Joseph Hospital in Fort Wayne.

He was a member of the Faith Journey Church in Fort Wayne and the St. Joe Lions Club in Spencerville.

He was born April 5, 1956, in Fort Wayne to William M. and Joan (Doty) Morgan. His mother survives in Fort Wayne, and his father preceded him in death.

He married Karen Beth Weaver on April 16, 1983, in Fort Wayne. She survives in Spencerville.

Also surviving are three daughters and a son-in-law, Sarah Elizabeth and Joe Arbuckle of Indianapolis, Amy Catherine Morgan of Fort Wayne and Courtney Leigh Morgan of Spencerville; and two brothers, Gary Morgan and William Morgan Jr., both of Fort Wayne.

He was preceded in death by a twin brother, Michael Morgan.

A memorial service will be Saturday at 4 p.m. in Brookside Church, 6102 Evard Road, Fort Wayne, with Pastor Matt Harris officiating.

Calling will be Saturday from 2-4 p.m. at the church.

Memorials are to the Latin American Missions Board Inc., P.O. Box 15663, Fort Wayne. IN 46885-5663.

The Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home, 6992 S.R. 1, Spencerville, is handling arrangements.

## Edith Brammall

AMELIA, Ohio — Edith Brammall, 84, of Amelia, Ohio, died Tuesday, May 1, 2007, at her home.

Mrs. Brammall and her husband founded a number of successful businesses including Food Management Inc. of Cincinnati, Ohio, Brammall Inc. of Angola, and Trans-Guard Industries of Angola.

She was also a partner in the Three Season's art gallery, and was a proponent of children's art programs through the Steuben County Art League. She was an accomplished painter and metal sculptor and dabbled in other artistic endeavors, ranging from millinery and stained glass to jewelry making. She also traveled extensively, and opened her home to scores of visiting families.

She was born in 1923 in Garrett to Jesse and Edith McCurdy. She married Norman Brammall in 1943 and they were married for 45 years. He died in 1988.

She is survived by a daughter, Pam Brammall of Amelia; two sons and daughters-in-law, Terrence and Nancy Brammall of Angola, and Shawn and Sherrie Brammall of Canyon Lake, Texas; three grandchildren, Hezekiah Davis of Fremont, Shane and Jennie Brammall of Flatonia, Texas, and Ian Brammall and his girlfriend Evin Farrell of Amelia; and two great-grandsons, Seth and Josh Davis of Fremont.

Memorials are to make donations of time and support to children's art programs, organ donor programs or diabetes research.

Arrangements were by the Weicht Funeral Home of Angola.

## Anne Clark

INDIANAPOLIS — Anne Elizabeth Sikes Clark, 97, of Indianapolis and formerly of Waterloo, Fremont and Monroeville, died Tuesday, May 8, 2007.

She was born in 1909 in Fort White, Fla. She graduated from Asbury College in Wilmore, Ky., in 1930. While there, she starred as the top scorer for her college women's basketball team, losing only one game and that by one point. She averaged more than 20 points a game, a record that still endures.

In 2005, Mrs. Clark and her husband, Summers, were honored at their 75th college reunion as the oldest alumni attending. The couple funded the Anne Clark scholarship for Asbury students. They also donated a set of handbells for the founding of the Charles Wesley Handbell Choir at Asbury College.

Mrs. Clark was an educator. She first taught in Cottondale and Lake City, Fla., where she served as girls' athletic director. For a short time, she was an interim coach for the boys' basketball team. During that time, married women could not teach school, so she delayed her marriage while she helped send her sister, Minnielee Sikes Jones of Fort Wayne, to college.

She married A. Summers Clark, a Methodist pastor, in 1934 at her family home in Fort White. During the early 1940s, the couple moved to Haverhill, Mass. While her husband pursued graduate studies at Boston University, she was hired as the first woman insurance agent for the John Hancock Insurance Co.

From 1952 to 1992, Mrs. Clark taught both as a full-time teacher and as a substitute, once teaching in a one-room school house near Goshen. She received her master's degree in early childhood education in 1965 from Ball State University. She taught at Westfield, Meadowbrook in East Allen County and Waterloo in DeKalb County.

After retiring at age 66, she continued to substitute-teach until she was 88.

During her time with the East Allen County school system, she was head of the salary negotiating team for teachers. She earned the respect of both teachers and the school administration for her integrity, forthrightness and good humor.

After retiring from full-time teaching, Mrs. Clark and her husband traveled extensively, sometimes backpacking, to all the continents except Antarctica. During some of their travels, they visited mission schools and orphanages. They organized and contributed resources to support a number of the schools.

Mrs. Clark assisted in the construction of more than 1,000 school bags for Operation Classroom, a mission project of the Indiana Area United Methodist Church, when she attended Waterloo and subsequently Speedway United Methodist churches.

Surviving are her husband of 73 years, Summers Clark; four children, Hazel, Jim and Louis Clark and Marcia Franz; four grandchildren, Jessie, Megan and Lily Clark and Katie Gray; and a sister, Minnielee Sikes Jones.

Services will be Saturday at 2:30 p.m. in McMullan Funeral Home, 133 E. Main St., Highway 32, Westfield.

Calling will be Saturday from 1:30-2:30 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Taiama Secondary School to provide scholarships for students in Sierra Leone, in care of Speedway United Methodist Church, 5065 W. 16th St., Speedway, IN 46224,

Condolences may be left at wagnerfamilyfunerals.com.

## Barbara Lilly

ASHLEY — Barbara J. Lilly, 73, of Ashley died Wednesday, May 9, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

She worked as a waitress and cook for several area restaurants.

She was born May 24, 1933, in Vanderbilt, Mich., to George and Thelma (Neely) Beals. They preceded her in death.

Surviving are a son, David Lilly; a brother, Herbert F. Beals of Gaylord, Mich.; a sister, Julia M. Cook of Gaylord, Mich.; and a grandson, Scott Lilly.

She was preceded in death by three sisters, Mildred Goins, Rosalie Rynearson and Shirley Fender.

Graveside services will be today at 3 p.m. at Sedan Cemetery in rural Corunna.

Calling will be today from noon to 2:30 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo.

Pallbearers will be Harry Fender, Al Wright, Edwin Shull, Randy Staley, Ed Dudley and Jeff Fender.

Memorials are to the family.

## Eleanora Rathert

AUBURN — Eleanora M. "Kelly" Rathert, 73, of Auburn died May 10, 2007, at her home.

She graduated from Butler High School in 1952. She worked for Messenger Corp., Crane Edmund Corp. and the cafeteria in DeKalb Middle School, retiring in 1981.

Mrs. Rathert

Mrs. Rathert enjoyed her family, watching sports, fishing, reading and baking cookies. She was an active member of Women of the Moose Chapter 261 of Auburn and a former member of the Eagles in Butler.

She was born April 25, 1934, in Butler to Earnman and Alice Joy (Keller) Haifley. They preceded her in death.

She married Lawrence H. Rathert on Jan. 31, 1962, in St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Auburn. They lived in Waterloo for 31 years, then sold their home and moved to Indian Terrace Villas in Auburn in 1993. He died Feb. 19, 1997, in their home in Auburn.

Surviving are a son, Jeff Rathert of Silver Lake; a stepson and his wife, Larry and Doshis Rathert of Angola; two grandchildren, Amber and Tyler Rathert, both of Union City, Ohio; 14 stepgrandchildren, Tony, D.J., Randy, Lacie, Logan, Ashley, Stephanie, Jennifer, Terry, Amie, Kim, Paula, Christian and Candy; 37 stepgreat-grandchildren; a brother and sister-in-law, Gearld and Jessie Haifley of Angola; and a sister, Bonnie Rose of Thousand Oaks, Calif.

She was preceded in death by a sister, Kathryn Carper; a stepdaughter, Sandy Winchell; and a stepson, Michael Rathert.

Services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. in Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Randy Rathert officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Calling will be today from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. in the funeral home.

Memorials are to DeKalb Memorial Hospital or Ladies of the Moose in Auburn.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** *is being republished with corrected information about the location of the funeral.*

## Eleanora Rathert

AUBURN — Services for Eleanora M. "Kelly" Rathert, 73, of Auburn will be today at 11 a.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. Randy Rathert officiating.

**Mrs. Rathert**

Mrs. Rathert died May 10, 2007, at her home.

She graduated from Butler High School in 1952. She worked for Messenger Corp., Crane Edmund Corp. and the cafeteria in DeKalb Middle School, retiring in 1981.

Mrs. Rathert enjoyed her family, watching sports, fishing, reading and baking cookies. She was an active member of Women of the Moose Chapter 261 of Auburn and a former member of the Eagles in Butler.

She was born April 25, 1934, in Butler to Earnman and Alice Joy (Keller) Haifley. They preceded her in death.

She married Lawrence H. Rathert on Jan. 31, 1962, in St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Auburn. They lived in Waterloo for 31 years, then sold their home and moved to Indian Terrace Villas in Auburn in 1993. He died Feb. 19, 1997, in their home in Auburn.

Surviving are a son, Jeff Rathert, of Silver Lake; a stepson and his wife, Larry and Doshis Rathert of Angola; two grandchildren, Amber and Tyler Rathert, both of Union City, Ohio; 14 stepgrandchildren, Tony, D.J., Randy, Lacie, Logan, Ashley, Stephanie, Jennifer, Terry, Amie, Kim, Paula, Christian and Candy; 37 stepgreat-grandchildren; a brother and sister-in-law, Gearld and Jessie Haifley of Angola; and a sister, Bonnie Rose of Thousand Oaks, Calif.

She was preceded in death by a sister, Kathryn Carper; a stepdaughter, Sandy Winchell; and a stepson, Michael Rathert.

Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Memorials are to DeKalb Memorial Hospital or Ladies of the Moose in Auburn.

The EVENING STAR
May 13 2007 Auburn, Indiana

# 'Some came to see Marion'

BY SHIRLEY HARM
shirleyh@kpcnews.net

AUBURN — Marion Myers was the kind of guy who enjoyed people. Just as much, he enjoyed sharing his first-hand knowledge of the Auburn Automobile Co., where he'd worked in the late 1920s.

That early occupation was one of his favorite themes as he squired tour groups around what is now the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum, recalling for them how he drove new L-29 Cords right off the assembly line.

For the last several years of his life, Myers was a volunteer tour guide at the museum housed in the former automobile company headquarters. He was well informed on the topic and took great pride in it. He was quite sought after for his friendly, easygoing rapport with visiting car buffs.

"Some people came to the museum to see the cars. Some people came to see Marion," commented Sharon Fouke, the ACD Museum registrar and program support manager, who also works with volunteers.

"Marion was one of my favorite people. He had a vast knowledge of these cars, being a former employee." Fouke said. She added that Myers "enjoyed being here as much as we enjoyed having him here." Myers long hours of service earned him a "Hoosier Hospitality Award" from the governor.

Proof of Myers' popularity often came in the form of a thank-you card or letter — on the average of one a week, according to Fouke.

"He was a rock star at the museum," said museum marketing director Gran Roberts. "When I did tour booking, it never failed — they'd ask for him."

Because the L-29 Cord was a car he had a personal history with, Myers was proud to drive former Auburn Mayor Burt Dickman's L-29 Cord in several ACD Festival parades. He was thrilled when, two days after his 96th birthday, Dickman visited him at the museum with a special gift — spokes from one of those Cords.

Mr. Myers' youngest son, Stephen, of Fort Wayne, remembers the great stories his father told, many about working at International Harvester, just as his father and grandfather had. Marion Myers was a millwright when he retired in 1971 after 37 years.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Marion Myers, left, a longtime docent at the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum, was presented with a nostalgic L-29 Cord car part from his friend, Burt Dickman, on April 20. Mr. Myers died two days after this photo was taken.**

"He was a valuable asset at Harvester because of his experience in car manufacturing," Stephen Myers said, adding that his dad liked the Indy 500, especially in the early days. Duesenbergs, especially, "had to run a 100 miles an hour or the car was no good. ... He would tell me stories about how the cars would wreck because they didn't have the brakes. Speed was really 'in' in the '30s."

Stephen Myers' dad also told him about a "top secret" mission he knew about involving Philo T. Farnsworth, the inventor of the television, who lived in Fort Wayne.

"He was a pretty interesting guy. He was really quiet, but he was a good listener. He traveled a lot, he and my mom, around the country, but he liked Auburn. I was so fortunate to have him for 56 years. My brother had him for 73, and my middle brother had him for 66 years. He was absolutely maintenance-free. He never asked anything from anyone. He was a good man. He lived a good life."

## John Reichard

ALMA, Ark. — John Richard Reichard, 45, of Alma, Ark., and formerly of Auburn, died Tuesday, May 15, 2007, in Alma.

Mr. Reichard was a 1980 graduate of DeKalb High School, where he played on the state champion baseball team.

He was a graduate of Tri-State University in 1984 and was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity.

He worked at Graphic Packaging Corp. of Fort Smith, Ark. He previously had worked at Jefferson-Smurfit Stone in Pensacola, Fla., and at Burr Oak Tool and Die in Sturgis, Mich. His job took him all across the United States, which he loved. He also loved to play golf.

He was born Jan. 1, 1962, in Oak Park, Ill., to Richard and Patti Reichard. His parents survive in Auburn.

He married Karen Ann Estridge on April 7, 2006, at Sandals Resort in Jamaica. She survives.

Also surviving are two daughters, Payton Oliva Estridge and Courtney Noel Reichard, both at home; two sisters and their husbands, Patti and Denny Trubey of Garrett and Victoria Susann and Ross Riehle of Edgerton, Ohio; three nieces and two nephews, Sara Zehner and her husband, Matt, Bryan Trubey, Jinnifer Trubey, Logan Riehle and Megan Riehle; and a great-niece, Jada Zehner.

Services will be Saturday at 1 p.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Friday from 2-4 and 6-8 pm. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family for an educational trust to be set up for Payton and Courtney.

## Sally Wolfe

AUBURN — Sally O. Wolfe, 73, of Auburn died Tuesday, May 15, 2007, at her home.

Mrs. Wolfe worked at Universal Tool in Butler for 16 years. She also worked for Rinehart's in Spencerville. She was a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in St. Joe.

She was born Nov. 6, 1933, in St. Joe to Albert Martin and Madonna (Kinsey) Wade. They preceded her in death.

She married Ralph Dean Wolfe on Nov. 18, 1952, in Spencerville. He died Jan. 16, 2002.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Wendell and Sharon Wolfe of Auburn and Darrell and Charlotte Wolfe of Spencerville; two daughters and sons-in-law, Katherine and Ed Collins of Mousie, Ky., and Tammy and Lester Lee of Decatur; two brothers, Albert Ed Wade of Fort Wayne and Franklin Wade of Harlan; two sisters, Marcia Sible and Marylin Funk, both of St. Joe; seven grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

She also was preceded in death by two sisters, Beverly Bell and Margaret Barkman, and two grandsons, Eric Wolfe and Jeremy Staunton.

Services will be Friday at 2 p.m. in Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Merle Holden will officiate. Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery at St. Joe.

Calling will be Friday from noon to 2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to St. Mark's Lutheran Church in St. Joe or the Alzheimer's Association.

## Charles Sills

ANGOLA — Charles R. Sills, 72, died Tuesday, May 15, 2007, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mr. Sills worked for Renners Express as a diesel mechanic, retiring in 1988 after 36 years. He was a Teamster, former Boy Scout leader and a Miami Indian. He served his country from 1955 to 1960 in the Marine Corps.

He was born Nov. 23, 1935, in Fort Wayne to Charles E. and Delight (Weaver) Sills. His father preceded him in death, and his mother survives in Leo.

He married Ruth Ann DeFord on Feb. 20, 1960, and she survives.

Also surviving are three sons and two daughters-in-law, Jon E. Sills of Nashville, Tenn., Scott D. and Beth Sills of Angola and Patrick S. and Deborah Sills of Angola; a daughter and son-in-law, Katy U. and Gary Martin of Hamilton; a sister and brother-in-law, Marilyn and Michael Collier of Spencerville; and nine grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a grandson, Charles E. Sills.

Memorial services will be Saturday at 3 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo.

Memorials are to the family.

## Elsie Rolston

AUBURN — Elsie A. Rolston, 74, of Auburn died Wednesday, May 16, 2007, at Wesley Health Care in Auburn.

She worked at DeKalb Memorial Hospital and retired in 1998. She was a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Auburn, the Hope Circle at the church, the Heimach Center and the Red Hat Society.

She was born Nov. 17, 1933, in Dryden, Ontario, Canada, to Robert and Martha (Appel) Monty. They preceded her in death.

Surviving are two sons and one daughter-in-law, Orville R. and Melody Rolston of Auburn, and Gerald A. Rolston of Arcola; three brothers and one sister-in-law, Oscar Monty of Dryden, Ontario, Edward Monty of Vermilion Bay, Ontario, and Gordan of Elizabeth Monty of Vermilion Bay, Ontario; one sister, Dorothy Smith of Vermilion Bay, Ontario; two grandchildren and their spouses, Bettina and Brad Pepple of Corunna and Kembra and Steve Schneider of Leo; and nine great-grandchildren, Sarah, Will, Ben and John Schneider, Keith Rogers, Nicole Pepple, Zac Foster, Morgan Husted and Mason Bowland.

Services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. in St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 211 W. Ninth St., Auburn. The Rev. Stephen Kummernuss will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be Friday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. and Saturday from 10-11 a.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn,

Memorials are to the Heimach Center, Relay for Life or the church.

## Joyce Davis

AUBURN — Joyce A. Davis, 58, of Auburn died Wednesday, May 16, 2007, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Davis was a cashier at Richards Restaurant, Owen's grocery store and the Kroger store.

She was born Sept. 18, 1948, in Auburn to Richard and Mildred (Geisinger) Woods. Her father preceded her in death, and her mother survives in St. Joe.

Also surviving are her husband, Jim Davis of Auburn; a daughter, Rebecca L. Diederich of Garrett; a grandson, Brandon Bowman of Garrett; four sisters, Janice Bagnal of Tucson, Ariz., Mary Liberty of Auburn, Penny Liberty of St. Joe and Kelly Woods of St. Joe; and three brothers, Tom Woods, Scott Woods and Eric Woods, all of St. Joe.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Richard Woods II.

Services will be Friday at 2 p.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with Dr. Robert Craig officiating. Burial will be in Roselawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Friday from noon to 2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family.

*The following obituary is being reprinted with corrected information, including the location of calling hours.*

## Elsie Rolston

AUBURN — Elsie A. Rolston, 73, of Auburn died Wednesday, May 16, 2007, at Wesley Health Care in Auburn.

She worked at DeKalb Memorial Hospital and retired in 1998. She was a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Auburn, the Hope Circle at the church, the Heimach Center and the Red Hat Society.

She was born Nov. 17, 1933, in Dryden, Ontario, Canada, to Robert and Martha (Appel) Monty. They preceded her in death.

Surviving are two sons and one daughter-in-law, Orville R. and Melody Rolston of Auburn, and Gerald A. Rolston of Arcola; three brothers and one sister-in-law, Oscar Monty of Dryden, Ontario, and Edward Monty and Gordon and Elizabeth Monty, all of Vermilion Bay, Ontario; one sister, Dorothy Smith of Vermilion Bay, Ontario; two grandchildren and their spouses, Bettina and Brad Pepple of Corunna and Kembra and Steve Schneider of Leo; and nine great-grandchildren, Sarah, Will, Ben and John Schneider, Keith Rogers, Nicole Pepple, Zac Foster, Morgan Husted and Mason Bowland.

Services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. in St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 211 W. Ninth St., Auburn. The Rev. Stephen Kummernuss will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be today from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, and Saturday from 10-11 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to the Heimach Center, Relay for Life or St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

*The following obituary is being reprinted with corrected spelling of a name.*

## Sally Wolfe

AUBURN — Sally O. Wolfe, 73, of Auburn died Tuesday, May 15, 2007, at her home.

Mrs. Wolfe worked at Universal Tool in Butler for 16 years. She also worked for Rhinehart in Spencerville. She was a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in St. Joe.

She was born Nov. 6, 1933, in St. Joe to Albert Martin and Madonna (Kinsey) Wade. They preceded her in death.

She married Ralph Dean Wolfe on Nov. 18, 1952, in Spencerville. He died Jan. 16, 2002.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Wendell and Sharon Wolfe of Auburn and Darrell and Charlotte Wolfe of Spencerville; two daughters and sons-in-law, Katherine and Ed Collins of Mousie, Ky. and Tammy and Lester Lee of Decatur; two brothers, Albert Ed Wade of Fort Wayne and Franklin Wade of Harlan; two sisters, Marcia Sible and Marylin Funk, both of St. Joe; seven grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

She also was preceded in death by two sisters, Beverly Bell and Margaret Barkman, and two grandsons, Eric Wolfe and Jeremy Stanton.

Services will be today at 2 p.m. in Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Merle Holden will officiate. Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery at St. Joe.

Calling will be today from noon to 2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to St. Mark's Lutheran Church in St. Joe or the Alzheimer's Association.

*The following obituary is being rerun to correct errors made by this newspaper.*

## Martha Sells

KENDALLVILLE — Martha A. Sells, 86, of Kendallville died Tuesday, May 15, 2007, at her home south of Kendallville.

She had been employed with Essex Wire in Ligonier.

Mrs. Sells

She was a longtime member of Mt. Calvary United Baptist Church in Stroh.

She was born in Garrett, Ky., on June 20, 1920, to Andy and Eliza Jane (Conley) Coburn. She married Curtis Sells on Oct. 9, 1943, in Garrett, Ky. He died Nov. 16, 1970.

Surviving are three sons, Bill and Anna Mosley and Norman and Deb Sells, all of Kendallville, and Herman Ray and Kay Sells of Rome City; six daughters, Velma Lorene and R.L. Thompson of Trinity, Texas, Alice Fay and Harlis Hall of Georgetown, Ky., Lucretta Duncan of Martin, Ky., and Zeda Hoover, Bonnetta Stacy, and Myrie and Dave Trueblood, all of Kendallville; 50 grandchildren; 30 great-grandchildren; a brother, Clester and Jean Coburn of Corunna; and a stepbrother, Elmo Coburn of Charlotte, N.C.

She was also preceded in death by her parents; a son, Marvin Ray Sells; a daughter, Freda Lawson; and brothers and sisters, Chester Coburn, Mickle Coburn, Rell Coburn, Arthur Coburn, John Coburn, Bee Coburn, Polly Mills and May Fitch.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Liberty Freewill Baptist Church in Wolcottville with the Rev. Willie Collins, the Rev. Charles Mosley and the Rev. Ernie Miller officiating. Burial will be at Orange Cemetery near Rome City. Pallbearers will be Ray McDaniels, Robert Duncan, Harlan Smith, Marvin Hoover, Randall Hall, Dave Trueblood, Herman C. Sells and Norman Sells.

Calling will be all day today with an evening service at 7 p.m. at the church.

Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville is in charge of arrangements.

Condolences may be sent online to www.hitefuneralhome.com.

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## Howard Freeman

AVILLA — Howard L. Freeman, 58, of Avilla died Thursday, May 17, 2007, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Freeman was a laborer at Dalton Foundry in Kendallville for 15 years. He was a member of Living Waters Community Church in Garrett.

He was born Feb. 27, 1949, in Hicksville, Ohio.

Surviving are his wife, Dianne L. (Depew) Freeman of Avilla; four brothers, Dennis Freeman of Anderson, Mo., Charles Freeman of Angola, Randy Freeman of Auburn and John Freeman of Garrett; and two sisters, Pat Hardin of Texas and Deb Gibson of Garrett.

Services will be Sunday at 3 p.m. in McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn.

Calling will be Sunday from 1-3 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Living Waters Community Church.

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# 'Mo' lived a life of giving to others

BY MICHAEL MARTURELLO
mikem@kpcnews.net

ORLAND — If you crossed paths with Carl H. "Mo" Mozena during the Vermont Settlement Festival in Orland, you might think you had come across an authentic 19th Century resident of Orland. Five months later in the year that same man was the spitting image of Santa Claus.

Mr. Mozena

And to many children growing up in the Orland area, Mo was the genuine article.

Mo portrayed Santa Claus ever since his wife, Beverly, can remember, dating to the time they were married in 1960. He was a man who was always there for children, either his two sons and two daughters or just about any kid in town.

"Before we were married he always bought for kids who had nothing. He always made sure there was a Christmas present for those who wouldn't get anything," Beverly said. "He just loved doing it. He just loved kids."

In the communities where the Mozenas lived, there would be many children who would address Mo as Santa all year long. After all, he eventually had a full white beard and didn't require padding. To kids who knew him, they understood that Mo got the job of donning the red outfit once a year. But to many other children, he was the real deal.

"I think there was a lot of children who never knew that he was (Santa). I think Orland being the small community they would bring the kids in from smaller towns who didn't know who he was," Beverly said.

To the adults in town, Mo was known as a outdoorsman who was very proud of his military past. And he was known as one of those guys who went out of his way to help anyone.

"Carl was a unique individual in that he would do anything for you," said Orland resident and friend Eric Albright. "He was just one of those guys, if you needed something, you called Mo."

Mo was very active in Orland American Legion Post 423. He was a past commander and led its honor guard. He also was Chef De Gare of 40/8 Voiture 483 of Steuben County and Grand Cheminot of Grand Voiture 423. He was a member of Amvets Post 46.

A few years ago Mo went back to the Marine base where he went through basic training to relive some memories.

"I know he enjoyed his military life," Albright said.

He also was very fond of the outdoors. If it was in season, he was probably hunting it. And he especially liked fishing.

"He was just one of those earthy guys that was easy to get along with," Albright said.

Mo also was active with the Pokagon Long Rifles, serving once as its president. The group for years has run the primitive village of re-enactors who attend the Vermont Settlement Festival that celebrate's Orland early days in the mid-1800s.

He also was a certified range officer, and a member of the Grand Collectors Association, Branch County Conservation and Sportsman's Club and St. Joe Valley Conservation Club.

And he had a great amount of respect for others.

As Beverly put it, Mo was "a great believer of friends, family, community. He was always there for everyone else. It was never for Mo."

His sharing with others was evident in all that he did. But he was well known for his love of children.

ANDY BARRAND

**Carl "Mo" Mozena takes aim with a muzzleloader as he poses for a photo to promote the 1998 Vermont Settlement Festival in Orland. Mo was a member of the Pokagon Longrifles who organize the re-enactors who camp at the festival each year.**

"He was just a firm believer in kids and giving them a chance," Beverly said.

When the couple used to operate a seasonal ice cream stand in town, next to Kim's Barber Shop, Mo gave the kids a lot of latitude and they, in turn, paid him respect, too.

Beverly said there would be occasions when local youth would take the picnic tables at the ice cream stand and use them in the park or elsewhere in town at night. But every morning the tables would be right back in their place at the stand.

Some of the old timers in town told the couple that their hands-off approach to the kids in town would come back to haunt them, but only once did a local kid take advantage of the Mozenas, Beverly said.

"He respected the kids and they returned it," she said.

Mo continued to share his love of children and Christmas up until he could no more. The last time he donned a Santa's outfit was Christmas of 2005.

The cancer that would take Mo's life on Tuesday was getting the better of him but he continued on as Santa in 2005. Like his early days, in the 1960s when he needed a fake beard and pillows to make the suit complete, Mo needed a little help that final year as Santa.

"He was so thin we had to pad him," Beverly said tearfully.

It is people like Mo who make a community, Albright said, and there will be none other like him.

"He was so full of life," Albright said.

## Lonzo Baugh Jr.

TOPEKA — Lonzo Baugh Jr., 45, died Friday, May 18, 2007, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Baugh was a professional fisherman and was a member of the ACATS and Catfish Masters. He attended the Independent Full Gospel Church in Ashley.

Mr. Baugh

He was born Jan. 13, 1962, in Ashland, Ky., to Lonzo Baugh Sr. and Beatrice (Humphrey) Baugh. His father preceded him in death, and his mother survives in Hamilton.

He married Mary Albertson on March 16, 1979, in Butler. She survives in Topeka.

Also surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Mollie and Richard Thomas of Gainesville, Mo.; a son and daughter-in-law, Justin and Alisha Baugh of Topeka; three grandchildren, Jade Baugh, Kellie Thomas and Logan Baugh; a brother, Robert Baugh of Hamilton; his mother-in-law, Joyce Albertson of Edgerton, Ohio; and two sisters-in-law, Tanya Baugh Haverstock of Hamilton and Julie Baugh-Jones of Auburn.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, John David Baugh and Charles Thomas Baugh.

Services will be Wednesday at 1 p.m. at Independent Full Gospel Church in Ashley. Pastor Sam Wiemer and Brother Barry St. Clair will officiate. Burial will be in Eddy Cemetery at Hamilton.

Calling will be Tuesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo.

Memorials are to the family.

## Donald Ankey

NAPLES, Fla. — Donald H. Ankey, 67, of Naples, Fla., formerly of Ashley, died Friday, May 18, 2007.

Mr. Ankey was a construction superintendent for Arthur Rethenberg Homes in Naples, and a veteran of the U.S. Army.

He was a member of several car clubs, including the Naples/Marco Island Antique Auto Club of America, the Antique Auto Club of America, the Auburn Cord Duesenberg (ACD) Club and the Model T Ford International Club. He was a lifetime member of the ACD museum, and a lifetime member of the NATMUS museum. He was also a member of the Elks Lodge in Naples. He also loved tinkering with his own truck at home, and had a passion for fixing things, which he extended to others.

He was born Nov. 11, 1939, to Paul and Mary Frances Ankey. He was married to Dorothy Ankey of Naples, who survives.

He is survived by his wife; two daughters and sons-in-law, Lisa and Tim Dantzer of Fort Wayne and Laura and Mike Rowe of Waterloo; two brothers and a sister-in-law, Paul Ankey Jr. of Portland, Ore., and James and Patricia Ankey of Waterloo; stepmother Gwen Ankey of Auburn, three stepchildren and a spouse, Teresa Morgenstern of Naples, John Araque of Angola and Maria and Kevin Walker of Winder, Ga.; three nieces; one nephew; 10 grandchildren; and two friends, Tim Alwood of Montgomery, Ala., and Dawn Walters of Goshen.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and a son-in-law, Brett Morgenstern.

Calling will be Thursday, May 31, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home in Waterloo. Private burial will follow in Waterloo on June 1.

Memorials are to the charity of the donor's choice.

# Services set for area soldier, Spc. Nicholas Scott Hartge

ROME CITY — U.S. Army Spc. Nicholas Scott Hartge, 20, of Rome City, was killed on Monday, May 14, 2007, in combat while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom near Baghdad, Iraq.

Spc. Hartge

Spc. Hartge graduated from East Noble High School in June 2005 and went to boot camp at Fort Benning, Ga. His unit was deployed to Iraq in August 2006.

He was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

He participated in marching band since eighth grade and wrestled his senior year. He was physically fit and enjoyed a good workout to stay in shape. He was especially interested in the United States Army and serving his country.

Spc. Hartge liked fast cars and motorcycles and working on them. Nick enjoyed listening to music and watching movies. He liked guns and target shooting, water sports, boating, skiing and tubing.

He loved being around people and enjoyed spending time with his family and friends.

He was born in Toledo, Ohio, on April 24, 1987, to Scott Roger Hartge and Lori Anne (Hines) Abbott.

Surviving are his mother and stepfather, Lori and Dave Abbott of Rome City; his father, Scott Roger Hartge of Delaware, Ohio; two sisters, Elise Hartge of Rome City and Jennifer and Scott Wheeler of Fort Wayne; two brothers, 1st. Lt. Ryan and Abby Abbott of Camp Humphreys, Korea, and Justin Abbott of Auburn; his maternal grandmother, Janet Hines of Orland; and his paternal grandfathers, Roger Hartge of New Carlisle, Ohio, and Frank Robey of Van Wert, Ohio; a grandmother, Marjorie Abbott of Fort Wayne; two nephews, Hunter and Logan Wheeler of Fort Wayne; and two nieces, Whitney and Olivia Wheeler of Fort Wayne.

He was preceded in death by his maternal grandfather, Richard Hines, in 1988; paternal grandmother, Carol Robey, in 1997; and his grandfather, John Abbott, in 1986.

Services will be at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday at the East Noble High School gymnasium, 901 S. Garden St., Kendallville, with Michael Booher of South Milford Church of Christ officiating. Burial will be at Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville.

Calling will be from 1-9 p.m. Tuesday at Hite Funeral Home, 403 S. Main St. in Kendallville.

Memorials are monetary donations to be used to buy items for care packages for the soldiers in Mr. Hartge's unit.

View a video tribute (by Tuesday) or send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

## Gordon Lawson

AUBURN — Gordon P. Lawson, 72, of Auburn died Saturday, May 19, 2007, at his home.

Mr. Lawson

Mr. Lawson was a self-employed semi truck owner-operator and referred to himself as a "commercial tourist." He was a member of the Auburn Church of the Nazarene and a veteran of the U.S. Air Force.

He was born Nov. 29, 1934, in Binghamton, N.Y., to Lewis and Betty (Belvees) Lawson. They preceded him in death.

He married Beverly Squier Wattier on July 1, 2005, at the Auburn Church of the Nazarene. She survives.

Also surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Tim and Darla Lawson of Burlington, N.C., and Jimmy Lawson of Michigan; two daughters and sons-in-law, Cindy and Jimmy Odom of Azores, Portugal, and Rebecca and Rob Philpot of Embden, Maine; a stepson and his wife, Ed and Kim Shippy Jr. of Kendallville; two stepdaughters and their husbands, Jo and Dave Crace of Churubusco and Judy and Gary Hart of Auburn; two brothers; three sisters; 23 grandchildren; six stepgrandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and four stepgreat-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a stepdaughter, Cindy Vanderpool.

Services will be Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. in the Auburn Church of the Nazarene. The Rev. Dan White will officiate. Burial will be in Corunna Cemetery.

Calling will be Tuesday from 4-7 p.m. at the church.

Memorials are to the church.

Feller and Clark Funeral Home of Auburn is handling arrangements.

## Evelyn Botteron

AUBURN — Evelyn R. Botteron, 88, died Monday, May 21, 2007, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mrs. Botteron worked in sales at Montgomery Ward in Fort Wayne for 13 years, retiring in 1975. She was a member of Grace St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne.

She was born Nov. 2, 1918, in Fort Wayne to Charles and Hester (Nierman) Knock. They preceded her in death.

She married Lewis H. Botteron on June 14, 1941, in Fort Wayne. He died July 22, 2002.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Gary and Priscilla Botteron of Auburn; a grandson and his wife, Sheldon and Beth Walburn of Auburn; and two great-grandchildren, McKinzie and Nathaniel Walburn of Auburn.

Services will be Wednesday at 3 p.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo.

Calling will be Wednesday from 1-3 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society.

## George Tuttle

PRESCOTT, Ariz. — A graveside memorial service for George Tuttle will be Saturday at 10:30 a.m. in Christian Union Cemetery of Garrett.

Mr. Tuttle, 74, died Saturday, Jan. 27, 2007, at his home in Prescott, Ariz.

He enjoyed ballroom dancing.

He was born Oct. 4, 1932, in DeKalb County to Clair and Sadie Haynes Tuttle.

He married Rosalie Cech on Oct. 29, 1977. She preceded him in death.

Surviving are two sisters, Marilyn Cook of Auburn and Zephyrhills, Fla., and Carolyn Debes of Auburn, and a brother, Frank "Bud" Tuttle of Garrett.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, Theron and Chalmer.

## Virginia Guillaume

FORT WAYNE — Virginia P. (Schneider) Guillaume, 86, of Fort Wayne died Monday, May 21, 2007, at Select Specialty Hospital in Battle Creek, Mich.

Mrs. Guillaume graduated from Ball State University with a bachelor's degree in education in 1946. She was a sales clerk at Maier's at Northcrest for seven years, retiring in 1986. She taught school in Wells County for two years and Allen County for one year. She was also a clerk at W&D's and North American Van Lines.

She was a member of the New Haven United Methodist Church, the Merry Mixers Home Ec Club in New Haven, CBI Anthony Wayne Basha, American Legion Auxiliary Post 330, Moose Lodge in Fort Wayne and Eastern Star of New Haven. She was a campaign chairman for the March of Dimes and played piano at Kingston Nursing Home and other homes.

She was born in Butler and was a longtime resident of Fort Wayne and New Haven.

Surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, June and Garry Folk of Fort Wayne and Sandi and Dusty Foust of Reading, Mich.; a granddaughter, Jennifer Foust of Reading; and a great-grandson, Logan Foust of Reading.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 42 years, Edward P. Guillaume, in 1988.

Services will be at 7 p.m. Friday at D.O. McComb and Sons Maplewood Park Funeral Home, 4017 Maplecrest Road, Fort Wayne. Burial will be in Covington Memorial Gardens.

Calling will be from 3-7 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the New Haven United Methodist Church.

## Vernie Elkins

STROH — Vernie T. Elkins, 66, of Stroh died Tuesday, May 22, 2007, at his home.

Mr. Elkins

Mr. Elkins was born June 9, 1940, in Elmira to Gordon and Violet (Emerick) Elkins of Stroh. Both preceded him in death.

Surviving are his wife, Carol (Shephard) Elkins; his first wife, Janet Hippenhammer of Florida; his second wife, Deborah (Pearson) Smith of South Milford; a brother, Robert Day; a sister and brother-in-law, Carol and Grover Harrell of Florida; 14 children and spouses, Mickey Elkins of Virginia, Pam and Darill Blankenship of Angola, Terry and Vianna Elkins of Angola, DeeDee and Quent Zimmerman of Albion, Bud and Lisa Goodman of West Virginia, Kenneth Pearson of South Milford, Snuggles and Chuck Grime of Stroh, Buster and Audra Elkins of South Milford, Heather and Jeff Burlison of Michigan, Misty and Huey Easterday of Stroh, and Chase Shephard, Sara Keck, Frankie Keck and Wyatt Elkins, all of Stroh; 35 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at the Stroh Church of Christ, with the Rev. Quent Zimmerman and Mike Hamm officiating. Burial will be in Woodruff Cemetery.

Calling will be from 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday at the church.

Memorials are to the family.

Johnson Funeral Home in Hudson is in charge of the arrangements.

## Naomi Brown

AUBURN — Naomi Ruth Brown, 79, of Auburn died Tuesday, May 22, 2007, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

She had worked at the Essex Co. and Greenhurst Country Club in Auburn.

She was born Aug. 22, 1927, in Butler to Phillip R. and Beulah Helen (Gloy) Brown.

Surviving are two sisters and brothers-in-law, Clara Jane and Wayne Hons of Wolcottville and Iona May and Willis Cook of Nampa, Idaho; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Jim R. and Suzanne Brown of Auburn and Gerald W. and Sharon Brown of Angola; a sister-in-law, Dolores Brown of Fort Wayne; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents and two brothers, Frederick Brown and Phillip Brown Jr.

Services will be Thursday at 2 p.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. The Rev. Ted Jansen will officiate. Burial will be in Maple Grove Cemetery at Edgerton, Ohio.

Calling will be Thursday from noon to 2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Riley Hospital for Children at Indianapolis.

## Cathleen Sebring

BUTLER — Cathleen Sebring, 81, of rural Butler died Tuesday, May 22, 2007, at her home.

Mrs. Sebring was a homemaker and a member of the Butler Church of the Nazarene.

She was born Jan. 27, 1926, in Fort Wayne to Elijah and Margaret (Steibarger) Saylor.

She married Harold Sebring in 1948. He died in 1974.

Surviving are two daughters and a son-in-law, Colleen and Rick Carper of Butler and Charlene Carper of St. Joe; two sons and a daughter-in-law, David and Rita Sebring of Waterloo and Keith Sebring of Butler; a brother, Charles L. Kelly of Yoder; four grandchildren, two stepgrandchildren, six great-grandchildren and five stepgreat-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by one brother and three sisters, in addition to her parents and husband.

Services will be Thursday at 11 a.m. in Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. The Rev. Paul Patton will officiate. Burial will be in Roselawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be today from 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Butler Church of the Nazarene.

## Neil Bonecutter Jr.

EDGERTON, Ohio — Neil A. Bonecutter Jr., 22, of Edgerton, Ohio, died early Wednes-day morning, May 23, 2007, shortly after admittance to Commun-ity Hospitals and Wellness Centers in Bryan, Ohio.

Mr. Bonecutter

He was a 2004 graduate of Edgerton High School and was employed as an inspector at the PDC Co. in Auburn.

He was born Feb. 10, 1985, in Hicksville, Ohio, the son of Neil A. Bonecutter Sr. and Joanna R. (Albertson) Bonecutter. They survive in Edgerton.

Also surviving are two sisters and a brother-in-law, Tonya and Bernie Harvey and Tricia Bonecutter, all of Edgerton; a cousin who was raised by his family, Elizabeth Albertson-Dohm of Edgerton; his nephews and nieces, Austin W. Harvey, Brant Dohm and Skylar Dohm, all of Edgerton; a maternal grandmother, Joyce Albertson of Edgerton; his paternal grandparents, Clare and Joan Bonecutter of Butler; and numerous aunts and uncles.

He was preceded in death by his maternal grandfather, Bill Albertson.

Services will be Saturday at 1 p.m. in Life Changing Realities Church in Edgerton with Pastor Byron Adams officiating. Interment will follow in Maple Grove Cemetery in Edgerton.

Calling will be in Krill Funeral Home, 114 E. Hull St., Edgerton, from 6-9 p.m. Friday.

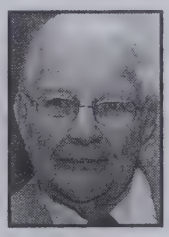
Memorials are to the American Heart Association or to the American Cancer Society.

Condolences may be sent to and an online register may be signed at www.krillfuner-alservice.com.

# Dr. Donald Mason dies at age 87

ANGOLA — Dr. Donald Gooding Mason, 87, of Angola died Tuesday, May 22, 2007, at Cameron Memorial Commun-ity Hospital in Angola.

Dr. Mason was a family physician who served as chief of staff at Cameron hospital for many years, and served as assistant coroner for Steuben County. He served as a doctor for the U.S. Navy in World War II and in Korea.


Dr. Mason

He founded and was a board member of the United Way, and served as board president of RISE Inc. for over 40 years. His contribu-tions to RISE also included financial support and many other commitments throughout the years. He was one of the original founders of RISE prececessor, The Community Sheltered Workshop.

Dr. Mason was the former president of the Steuben County Medical Association, a member of the American Medical Association, a board president and member for the Metropolitan School District of Steuben County, Easter Seals Chairman, Chair of the annual Lions Club Health Fair, a member of the Angola Area Chamber of Commerce where he was named Business Professional of the Year in March, the Angola Masonic Lodge, a member of the 48th Parallel Society, and a member of the Indiana State Anesthesiology group. He was also a member of the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Angola, and sang in the choir at the church. He enjoyed music, gardening and golf.

Dr. Mason was born March 26, 1920, in Menominee, Mich., to Stephen Mason II and Mary (Rolfe) Mason. He married Catherine Ryan on June 16, 1944, in Ann Arbor, Mich. She died in 2003.

He is survived by four sons and two daughters-in-law, Donald Jr. and Jill Mason of Angola, Gregory Mason of Manhatten Beach, Ga., Lee Mason of Pleasant Lake, and Brian and Kelly Mason of Woodstock, Ill.; a daughter and son-in-law, Andrea and Don Dieterly of Findlay, Ohio; 12 grandchil-dren; and two great-grandchildren.

He was also preceded in death by brothers Frederick and Dr. Stephen Mason; and two sisters, Adelaid Spear and Jeannette Brown.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Memorials are to the donor's choice.

Weicht Funeral Home in Angola is in charge of the arrangements.

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## Elaine Wann

ANGOLA — Elaine Marie Wann, 55, of Angola died Thursday, May 24, 2007, at Cameron Memorial Community Hospital in Angola.

Mrs. Wann was employed at the former DeKalb Healthcare Center as the activities director.

She enjoyed painting.

She was born June 17, 1951, in Wauseon, Ohio, to Charles and Joyce (Oliverson) Thompson. She married Andrew Wann on June 16, 1990.

She is survived by her husband; her mother, Joyce Thompson of Hicksville, Ohio; a daughter, Bonita Brodock of Bryan, Ohio; two sons and a daughter-in-law, Flint and Patricia Miller of Hicksville and Sam Seevers of St. Louis; a grandchild; three great-grandchildren; a sister and brother-in-law, Beverly and Todd Jones of Columbia, Tenn.; and two brothers and a sister-in-law, Timothy and Deb Thompson Sr. and Wayne Thompson, all of Hicksville.

She was preceded in death by her father.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday at Smith and Brown Funeral Home in Hicksville. Burial will be in Scipio Cemetery in Harlan.

Calling will be from 2 to 8 p.m. Saturday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Cameron Home Health Care and Hospice.

## Richard Pinney

BUTLER — Richard W. Pinney, 73, died Friday, May 25, 2007, at the Laurels of DeKalb Nursing Home, Auburn.

He retired from Vulcraft after 11 years of service.

On Nov. 2, 1933, in Butler, he was born to Otha and Beulah (Morrow) Pinney. He married Diane Reith on Aug. 18, 1970, in Auburn. She preceded him in death on March 2, 2005.

Surviving are three daughters, Chris Baker of Butler, Robin Barfel of Ashley, and Sandy Pinney of Oklahoma; a son, Paul Pinney of Ashley; two sisters, Delores Nichols of Waterloo, and Darlene Stump of Butler; a brother, Dennis Pinney of Auburn; and four grandchildren.

In addition to his wife, three brothers, Jerry, Robert and Donald Pinney, and his parents preceded him in death.

There are no services or calling.

Burial will be in Big Run Cemetery, Butler.

H.E. Johnson Funeral Home, Butler, is in charge of arrangements.

## Robert Miller

AUBURN — Robert J. "Bob" Miller, 56, of Auburn died Thursday, May 24, 2007, at his home.

Born in Fort Wayne, he worked in sales and advertising with WANE-TV of Fort Wayne for 10 years. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church, graduated from North Side High School in 1969, enjoyed fishing and woodworking and loved his family and God.

Surviving are his wife, Cathy Miller of Auburn; a daughter and son-in-law, Breanna and David Kohli of Auburn; a granddaughter, Ava Kohli of Auburn; and two sisters and brothers-in-law, Martha and Emory Bryan of Fort Wayne and Jean and Doug Duffies of Ohio.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Orval J. and Ruth W. Miller.

Services will be Tuesday at 2 p.m. in the First United Methodist Church, 1203 E. Seventh St., Auburn, with the Rev. Ted Jansen officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Tuesday from 12:30 to 2 p.m. at the church.

Memorials are to Cancer Services of Northeast Allen County, 2925 E. State Blvd., Fort Wayne, IN 46805.

McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home of Auburn is handling arrangements.

## Elmer Ludy

ANGOLA — Elmer "Pat" Ludy, 91, of Angola died Thursday, May 24, 2007, in Fremont.

Mr. Ludy

He was a retired farmer and cabinet fitter, and a loving father, husband, son, sibling and friend who lived to help and comfort others. He died as he had lived, loved by all who knew him.

Mr. Ludy graduated from Monroe High School in 1934.

He enjoyed gardening, woodworking and fixing anything mechanical.

On Aug. 27, 1915, in Berne, he was born to John Reeves and Gladys Gertrude (Farlow) Ludy. He married Lela Maxine (McGough) Keller on May 18, 1940, in Decatur. She preceded him in death on Aug. 4, 2006.

Surviving are three sons, Richard Keller of Van Wert, Ohio, Tom Ludy of Waterloo, and John Ludy of Fremont; two daughters, Janet Fleming of Devil's Lake, N.D., and Judie Grogg of Delphos, Ohio; a sister, Evelyn Roth of Hamilton; 25 grandchildren; 53 great-grandchildren; and 19 great-great-grandchildren.

In addition to his wife and parents, a son, Donald Keller, a grandson, two great-grandchildren and two sisters preceded him in death.

A graveside funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Backesto Cemetery, Berne, with the Rev. Keith Olson officiating.

Calling will be 5 to 8 p.m. Monday at Beams Funeral Home, Fremont.

Memorials are to Cameron Home Health and Hospice for hospice volunteers' training.

Condolences may be sent online to www.beamsfuneralhome.com.

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# A lifetime holding the reins

## Horses were Dale Rinehold's hobby and business

BY VIV BOSSWURM
vivianr@kpcnews.net

WATERLOO — Dale Rinehold loved horses, he loved people, and he loved to have a good time.

During his lifetime, he managed to combine all of his passions into a successful business, Rinehold Tack and Western Wear, on the Rinehold farm in Waterloo.

Mr. Rinehold died March 6 at the age of 65 of pneumonia after battling pulmonary fibrosis for two years.

He was born April 22, 1941, in Auburn to Carl Ivan and Lorraine (Likes) Rinehold.

When he was young, he told his grandfather that someday he would own a tack shop of his own, his wife of 44 years, Jean, remembered.

"The store was always a dream of his," she said. It began 38 years ago, when Dale Rinehold would go to auctions, buy horse supplies and sell them to his friends out of a small shed on the farm, Jean Rinehold said.

The couple decided to make it a legitimate business and started Rinehold Tack and Western Wear in a garage. Today, it is housed in a country-style store that attracts horse enthusiasts from across the tri-state area.

A six-year employee at the store, Jennifer Luker of Pleasant Lake, said Rinehold was the best boss she's ever had.

"He would give the shirt off of his back to help people," Luker said. "He never charged what he should have for all the repair work he did. He said he wanted to treat people as he wanted to be treated."

After Dale Rinehold's funeral, his children and grandchildren transported his casket to the cemetery by way of draft horses and a wagon.

"It was so fitting for Dale," Luker said.

Dale and his wife, Jean (Sebert), met on a blind date. He was a student at Ashley High School and she was a student at Waterloo High School. They went to the Fort Wayne Coliseum to watch the basketball tournament, but because their schools were competing, could not sit together.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Dale Rinehold loved spending time with his horses. Mr. Rinehold, co-owner of Rinehold Tack and Western Wear in rural Waterloo, died March 6.**

"But we had a good time on the way there and on the way back," she said, laughing.

The couple hit it off and married on May 12, 1963, in Waterloo. They settled down on a farm once owned by Jean's grandparents and stayed their entire lives.

Dale farmed about 1,000 acres of corn, soybeans, wheat and hay. He also, at various times, raised pigs and cattle. But always, the horses stayed.

His love and specialty was Haflinger horses, a type of miniature draft horse. The store walls are lined with ribbons, trophies and award plaques as well as photos of Dale and his beloved Haflingers.

The couple had a daughter, Cheryl, and a son, Timothy, and five grandchildren.

"He loved those kids," his wife said, "and, he could never get enough of his grandkids."

Dale and Jean liked to watch college basketball on television and go camping. Throughout the years, they elevated their camping trips from the back of a supply truck "when the kids were small" to a fifth wheeler, which they used for a lot of fun trips in recent years, Jean Rinehold said.

At the time his children began participating in 4-H, the DeKalb Horse and Pony Club was just getting off the ground. Dale Rinehold became the first president of the group.

Dale was a member of the DeKalb County Horseman's Association and the Indiana Haflinger Association. He also was a former DeKalb County 4-H leader. He served on the 4-H Council and as leader of the Waterloo Rascals, a local 4-H group.

Dale was well known for his shenanigans at horse shows. Small in stature, many times he would jump on a scoop shovel that was tied to a running horse and "ride the shovel" around a showring, drawing laughter from the crowd.

Dale and Bill Knott of LaOtto met when they were 10 years old and had the job of cleaning out a chicken coop for Knott's aunt. They remained good friends for 55 years and even share two grandchildren.

"It's hard to come up with all of the good times we had," Knott said. "There were so many."

Once at the 4-H fair, in a bid for their grandson's steer, they both began driving up the price without realizing they were bidding against each other.

"We split up the cost later when we figured it out," Knott said.

Rinehold and Knott liked to participate in horse-plowing demonstrations or go log skidding in the woods with the horses.

"Last year when the Rineholds were staying in Texas for the winter, my horse fell into my swimming pool and he called me and hassled me," Knott said, laughing. "He wouldn't let me forget that."

The men shared laughter, good times, grandchildren and a love of horses, Knott said. Even in death, their mutual love of horses was apparent.

At Dale Rinehold's funeral, it was Knott's horses and wagon that carried his close friend to his final resting place.

## Charles Shaw

FORT WAYNE — Charles L. Shaw, 83, of Fort Wayne died Friday, May 25, 2007, at Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home.

Mr. Shaw

Mr. Shaw served in the Pacific with the 2nd Marine Division during World War II. His post-war worklife began as a fireman on the Pennsylvania Railroad and then he worked at Slater Steels until he retired.

A carpenter and wood carver throughout his life, he enjoyed the challenge of creating with his hands. He enjoyed playing cards, a great meal with friends and sports, especially Purdue football and basketball.

He was born Nov. 7, 1923, to Charles and Rose (Grey) Shaw in Clinton County, Ind. He graduated from Fort Wayne Central in 1941. He married Wilma J. Heuer on Feb. 8, 1946, in Fort Wayne.

She died Feb. 16, 2000. On July 29, 2004, he married Phyllis Harbin, who survives.

Other survivors include two sons and daughters-in-law, David A. and Peggy Shaw of Naperville, Ill., and Steven C. and Donna Shaw of Mechanicsville, Va.; four stepchildren and their spouses, Sondra and Mike Notter of Angola, Steve and Linda Elonzae of Roanoke, George and Becki Elonzae of Auburn and Gary and Roberta Elonzae of Fort Wayne; 15 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Jean Blair.

Services will be Tuesday at 3 p.m. in the Concordia Cemetery Gardens Chapel, 5300 Lake Ave., Fort Wayne.

Calling will be from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at the chapel.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are to Suburban Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 6318 W. California Rd., Fort Wayne, IN 46825.

Arrangements are by Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home in Spencerville.

## Charlotte Keen

WARSAW— Charlotte Ann Ensign Keen, 77, of Warsaw and formerly of Hudson, died Friday, May 25, 2007, at Mason Care Center in Warsaw.

Born in Defiance, Ohio, she was a homemaker and worked in customer service at Fremont Homes in Nappanee. She was a 1948 graduate of Farmer High School, and a 1949 graduate of International Business College. She was a member of the Home Extension Club, BSC Executive Secretarial, and served as treasurer and past treasurer of DeKalb County Music. She enjoyed crafts, reading, traveling and doing crossword puzzles.

She married Wayne L. Keen on March 30, 1950, in Huntington. He died Nov. 6, 1989.

Survivors included three daughters and a son-in-law, Jan and Donald Hatton of Fort Wayne, Becky Bever of Leesburg and Nila Ward of Fort Wayne; two sisters Caroline Lilly of Bryan, Ohio, and Pat Purvis of Weeki Wachee, Fla.; eight grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by a son, Charles Keen in 2001, and her parents, Charles and Gladys (Haase) Ensign.

Services will be Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, with the Rev. John DiMarzio officiating.

Calling will be Tuesday from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Home Extension Club or Kosciusko Home Care and Hospice, 902 Provident Dr. Warsaw, IN.

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## Delores Jackson

ASHLEY — Delores C. Jackson, 88, of Ashley died Saturday, May 26, 2007, at Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla.

She was a homemaker and a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Waterloo, the Rosary Society, St. Ann Study Club and the Fremont Women of the Moose.

Mrs. Jackson

She was born south of Ashley on Aug. 16, 1918, to George and Martha (Kowalski) Gaetz. She married Cecil D. Jackson Oct. 4, 1938, in St. Michael's Catholic Church in Waterloo. He died July 23, 1997.

Survivors include four sons and two daughters-in-law, Edward and Pauli Jackson of Lafayette, Jerome "Jerry" and Cathy Jackson of Fremont, John Jackson of Ashley and Larry Jackson of St. Petersburg, Fla.; a daughter, Rose Marie Grogg of Hudson; 15 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren and two great-great- grandchildren.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by a son, Tom Jackson.

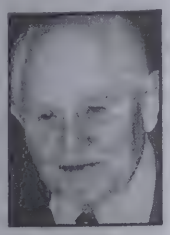
Mass of the Christian Burial will be Thursday at 11 a.m. at St. Michael's Catholic Church, Waterloo, with Father Dave Carkenord officiating. Burial is at St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery.

Calling will be Wednesday from 3 to 7 p.m. at Johnson Funeral Home in Hudson, and one hour before the funeral. A Rosary service will be held Wednesday at 6:45 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are Masses to St. Michael's Catholic Church.

## John Smith

AUBURN — John D. Smith, 95, of Auburn died Monday, May 28, 2007, at Wesley HealthCare in Auburn.


Mr. Smith

Mr. Smith farmed his entire life on his family farm on the east edge of Auburn. He was a director of the DeKalb County Farm Bureau Co-op for 20 years and served as its president for 10 years, retiring from the position in 1969. He also helped to organize the county Soil Conservation Service and served as its first president in 1947. He served in the ASCS government organization for 25 years. Mr. Smith was also a charter member of the National Cattleman's Association and served as director of the Indiana Angus Association. He was a beef cattle superintendent for the DeKalb County Free Fall Fair for many years.

Mr. Smith was a member of the Auburn Presbyterian Church, served as a church elder and sang in its choir for 40 years. With his baritone voice, he was active in music for 50 years. In 1945-46, he sang with the WLS Barn Dance at Chicago's 8th Street Theater. He also sang for numerous concerts, weddings, minstrels and local performances of Handel's "Messiah."

He was born Nov. 1, 1911, in the home where he lived his entire life to Marion M. and Cora B. (Widney) Smith. They preceded him in death.

He married Lois Mae Sellers Oct. 3, 1937, in Auburn. She died Jan. 26, 2002.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Paul D. and Carol Smith of Angola and Thomas L. and Cathy A. Smith of Auburn; a daughter and son-in-law, Sue Ann and Paul T. Walter of Hillsdale, Mich.; eight grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and one stepgreat-granddaughter.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Harry S.P. Smith, and a sister, Ruth Grogg.

Services will be Thursday at 11 a.m. in the Auburn Presbyterian Church, 111 W. Twelfth St. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Wednesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn.

Memorials are to the church or the DeKalb County Fair Association.

## Anna Cassiday

KENDALLVILLE — Anna J. Cassiday, 70, of Kendallville died Sunday, May 27, 2007, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Cassiday

Mrs. Cassiday had been employed at Essex Wire in Ligonier and at Taylor Made Manufacturing in Kendallville.

She was born Sept. 1, 1936, in Raysal, W.Va., to Robert L. and Hazel Hicks. They are deceased.

Surviving are her husband, Kenneth D. Cassiday of Kendallville; three sons, Kelly Christian Jr., Douglas Ray Christian and Robert Howard Christian, all of Kendallville; a sister and brother-in-law, Nan and Eric Collins of Hudson; five grandchildren, Kelly Christian III, Lynn Christian, Jessica Christian and Brandon Lee Christian, all of Kendallville, and Robert H. Christian of Garrett; and three great-grandchildren, Kali Christian, Anna Herr and Isabell Herr.

She was also preceded in death by two brothers, Franklin Hicks and Thomas Click.

Services will be at 1:30 p.m. Thursday at South Milford Independent Baptist Church of South Milford with the Rev. Willie Collins officiating. Burial will be in Brushy Chapel Cemetery in LaGrange. Pallbearers will be Kenneth Cassiday, Kelly Christian Jr., Robert Christian, Douglas Christian, Robert H. Christian Jr. and Brandon Christian.

Calling will be after 2 p.m. Wednesday at the church.

Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville is in charge of arrangements.

## Bernard Lockwood

AUBURN — Bernard Lockwood, 91, died Sunday, May 27, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Lockwood

Mr. Lockwood was a lifetime farmer in Richland Township of DeKalb County. He was a member of the First Christian Church in Auburn, a member and former board member of the DeKalb County Farm Bureau, a former director of DeKalb Mutual Insurance and a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) and the Rebekah Lodge, both of Auburn.

He was born Dec. 8, 1915, in Hamilton to Chester and Joyce (Beard) Lockwood. They preceded him in death.

He married LaVoyle Headley on Feb. 16, 1935 in Auburn. She died Feb. 25, 1999.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Gerald and Sandra Lockwood of Waterloo and Larry and Janice Lockwood of Auburn; a daughter and son-in-law, Jeanette and Carl Feller of Auburn; three brothers, Dayton, Clifford and Willis Lockwood, all of Hamilton; seven grandchildren, Jeanne Penland, Carter Feller, Doug Lockwood, Gregg Lockwood, Lisa Clifford, Tina Heldbert and Sheldon Lockwood; and 19 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Ronald Lockwood; a sister, Lois Lockwood; a granddaughter, Kim Hartman; and a great-granddaughter, Casey Penland.

Services will be Thursday at 11 a.m. at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Dr. Robert Craig will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn

Calling will be Wednesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the First Christian Church of Auburn.

## Leona Murphy

AUBURN — Leona J. Murphy, 48, of Auburn died Saturday, May 26, 2007, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

She worked as a department manager at Wal-Mart in Auburn.

She was born Jan. 12, 1959, in Auburn to Marion David and Echo June (Shipe) Kessler. Her father preceded her in death, and her mother survives in Interlachen, Fla.

Surviving are two sons, Adam Murphy and his wife, Amanda, of Auburn and Alex Murphy and his fiancee, Alana Burch, of Auburn; a granddaughter, Alpatha Coleman; a brother and sister-in-law, Edward and Cindy Kessler of Auburn; two nephews and two nieces.

Services will be Thursday at 3 p.m. in Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Brother Bill Sharp will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Thursday from 1-3 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family.

## Donald Ankney

NAPLES, Fla. — Calling for Donald H. Ankney will be Thursday from 6-8 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home in Waterloo

Mr. Ankey, 67, of Naples, Fla., formerly of Ashley, died Friday, May 18, 2007.

Mr. Ankney was a construction superintendent for Arthur Rethenberg Homes in Naples, and a veteran of the U.S. Army.

He was a member of several car clubs, including the Naples/Marco Island Antique Auto Club of America, the Antique Auto Club of America, the Auburn Cord Duesenberg (ACD) Club and the Model T Ford International Club.

He was a lifetime member of the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum, and a lifetime member of the NATMUS museum in Auburn. He was also a member of the Elks Lodge in Naples. He also loved tinkering with his own truck at home, and had a passion for fixing things, which he extended to others.

He was born Nov. 11, 1939, to Paul and Mary Frances Ankey.

He was married to Dorothy Ankney of Naples, who survives.

Also surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Lisa and Tim Dantzer of Fort Wayne and Laura and Mike Rowe of Waterloo; two brothers and a sister-in-law, Paul Ankney Jr. of Portland, Ore., and James and Patricia Ankney of Waterloo; his stepmother, Gwen Ankney of Auburn; three stepchildren and son-in-law, Teresa Morgenstern of Naples, John Araque of Angola and Maria and Kevin Walker of Winder, Ga.; three nieces; one nephew; 10 grandchildren; and two "children of his heart," Tim Alwood of Montgomery, Ala., and Dawn Walters of Goshen.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a son-in-law, Brett Morgenstern.

Private burial will be in Waterloo on June 1.

Memorials are to a charity of the donor's choice.

## Velma Stahl

KENDALLVILLE — Velma J. Stahl, 79, of Kendallville died at 6:35 p.m. Sunday, May 27, 2007, at Hickory Creek of Kendallville.

Mrs. Stahl was a lifetime area resident.

She was a homemaker.

Mrs. Stahl was born Jan. 4, 1928, in DeKalb County to Robert and Goldie (Swert) Lung. She married Lloyd F. Stahl on April 7, 1945, in DeKalb County. He died Jan. 8, 1982.

Surviving are a daughter, Charlene K. Fair of Auburn; five grandchildren, Brenda Krafft and Joseph Kennedy, both of Auburn, Lloyd Leiner of Fort Wayne, Lori Bolen of Kendallville and Wanda Facker of Ashley; several great-grandchildren; and several great-great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by three sisters and six brothers.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Grace Christian Church in Kendallville with the Rev. Chris Mosley officiating. Burial will be in Fairfield Center Cemetery.

Calling will be from noon to 2 p.m. Wednesday at the church.

Memorials are to the family.

Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, is in charge of arrangements.

Condolences may be sent online to www.youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

## Norman Ayers

ST. JOE — Norman D. Ayers, 86, died Sunday May 27, 2007, at Wesley Healthcare in Auburn.

Mr. Ayers was employed at International Harvester in Fort Wayne for 30 years and was a member of UAW Local 57.

He was a U.S. Army veteran, serving overseas during World War II. He was a member of the Hicksville American Legion Post 223.

He was born in Newville Township on Dec. 25, 1920, the son of Donel and Lelah (Cook) Ayers.

He married Doris Machir in February 1946 in Auburn. She survives.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Kenny and Gail Ayers of Kendallville; two grandsons, Doug Ayers and his wife, Pat, of St. Joe and Preston Ayers of Kendallville; two stepgranddaughters, Lisa Householder and her husband, Scott, of South Bend and Angela Brunson of Kendallville; 13 great-grandchildren; a sister, Virginia Helbert of St. Joe; two nieces and their husbands, Cheryl and Randy Staley of Waterloo and Nancy and John Lapp of Hamilton; and three nephews and their wives, Dennis and Carol Helbert of Butler, Danny and Robin Helbert of Butler and Donel and Tina Helbert of Auburn.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Services will be Thursday at 10 a.m. at Smith & Brown Funeral Home, 706 N. Main St., Hicksville, Ohio. Burial will be at Alton Cemetery in St. Joe, with military honors by American Legion Post 223.

Calling will be Wednesday from 4–7 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Lung Association or American Cancer Society.

## Pauline Ross

ANGOLA — Pauline Elizabeth Ross, 94, of Angola died Sunday, May 27, 2007, at Cameron Memorial Community Hospital in Angola.

Mrs. Ross was a homemaker, as well as a legal secretary and a ceramics teacher.

She was a member of the Lebanon chapter No. 23 Order of the Eastern Star, participated in Rainbow and in the Steuben County Antique Club.

She was born Aug. 11, 1912, in Jamestown to Dorsa and Ada (Billingsley) Butler. She married James Ross on March 11, 1941. He died in 1990.

She is survived by two sons and two daughters-in-law, Donald and Lane Ross of Fort Wayne, and Robert and Joy Ross of Angola; a daughter and son-in-law, Marilyn and John McElroy of Angola; eight grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and a great-great-grandchild.

She was also preceded in death by a sister, Maxine Swisher.

Services will be held 11 a.m. Friday at Myers Mortuary in Lebanon. Burial will follow at Oak Hill Cemetery in Lebanon.

Calling will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at Weicht Funeral Home in Angola, and 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday at Myers Mortuary, as well as an hour before the service Friday at Myers Mortuary.

Memorials are to Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis.

## Louise Powell

SPENCERVILLE — Louise M. Powell, 73, died Memorial Day, Monday, May 28, 2007, at Wesley HealthCare in Auburn.

Mrs. Powell

Mrs. Powell worked as a salesperson for Lincoln Printing. She was a 38-year member of Unit 409 American Legion Auxillary and a 34-year member of the American Business Women's Association, winning the National Top 10 Women of the Year Award in 1995.

She was born May 25, 1934, in Waynedale to August Kenneth and Susie (Pion) Stanger. They preceded her in death.

She married Aubrey Dean Powell Sr. on July 26, 1952, in Fort Wayne. He died Aug. 19, 1993.

Surviving are two sons, A. Dean Powell Jr. and Michael S. Powell Sr., both of Spencerville; two daughters, Valorie K. Miller of Texas Creek, Colo., and Marie E. Reese of Spencerville; 10 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; a brother, Charles H. Stanger of Fort Wayne; and two sisters, Joan Adamonis and Marjorie Keefer, both of Fort Wayne.

She was preceded in death by one brother, Kenneth Stanger.

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. in Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home, 6992 S.R. 1, Spencerville Burial will be in Leo Memorial Park Cemetery at Leo.

Calling will be Thursday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Unit 409 American Legion Auxillary and the National American Business Women's Association Scholarship Fund.

## Randall Preston

GARRETT — Randall L. Preston, 81, of Lisle, Ill., died Friday, May 25, 2007, at Meadowbrook Manor in Naperville, Ill.

Mr. Preston was employed by the Chicago Sun-Times for 35 years as an offset printer, retiring in 1992.

He served his country in the U.S. Army 4th Medical Battalion, 4th Infantry Division, during the Korean conflict.

He was born Francesco Lopresto on Sept. 8, 1925, in Chicago to Lorenzo and Francesca Lopresto, recent immigrants from Italy.

He married Alice Marie Foote in 1956. When they married, he changed his name to Randall L. Preston.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Brad and Phyllis Preston of Naperville; a sister-in-law, Isabelle Byer of Grand Rapids, Mich.; and a grandson, Christopher Anderson of Naperville.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his wife.

Services will be Saturday at 10 a.m. at the Christian Union Brethren In Christ Church of Garrett. Pastor Jerel Book will officiate. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery of Garrett. Graveside military services will be conducted by the Garrett posts of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Calling will be Friday from 4-8 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R., 56, Garrett.

Memorials are to the USO of Illinois Inc., Navy Pier, 700 E. Grand Ave. No. 105, Chicago, IL 60611.

Condolences may be sent and an online register book may be signed at www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

## Delores VanFleet

AUBURN — Delores Ann VanFleet, 83, of Auburn and formerly of Reading, Mich., and Defiance, Ohio, died Tuesday, May 29, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mrs. VanFleet worked for Wagners Industries in Reading for 15 years. She was a member of the Reading American Legion, the Defiance Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Defiance Eagles Lodge. She was a volunteer with the Defiance Regional Medical Center Ladies Auxiliary.

She was born April 14, 1924, in Toledo, Ohio, to Victor and Clara (Goch) Bergman. They preceded her in death.

She married Duane VanFleet in 1941. He died in 1976.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, retired Lt. Col. Duane VanFleet and Gail VanFleet of Columbia, Miss., and Neil and Carol VanFleet of Ligonier; two daughters and a son-in-law, Patsy Davis of Evert, Mich., and Peggy and Gary Gleason of Leo; a brother and sister-in-law, Charles and Lenore Bergman of Coral Gables, Fla.; eight grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a daughter, Judith Williams.

Graveside services will be Friday at 11 a.m. at Maplewood Cemetery in Reading.

Calling will be Thursday from 4-8 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society or a local humane society.

## Martin Graber Jr.

BUTLER — Martin "Marty" Graber Jr., 38, of Butler died Monday, May 28, 2007, in DeKalb County.

Mr. Graber Jr.

Mr. Graber was employed in maintenance at Dutch Made Cabinetry.

He loved the outdoors, hunting and camping. He enjoyed coaching junior high girls basketball at Eastside High School and loved helping his friends and family.

He was a member of the Grabill Fire Department for 22 years and held many positions in the fire department, including assistant chief.

He was born June 29, 1968, in Fort Wayne.

Surviving are his wife, Jennifer (Swoveland) Graber of Butler; four daughters, Arielle Rae, Taylor Renae, Autumn Mary and Paige Marie Graber, all at home; his parents, Martin Graber Sr. and Carol Graber of Grabill; six sisters and four brothers-in-law, Wilma and Lester Zehr of Grabill, Rebecca and Ed Schwartz of New Haven, Margaret and Marcus Schwartz of New Haven, Roseanna and Norman Eicher of Grabill, Marjorie Quaintance of Grabill and Marlene Graber of Conway, S.C.; six brothers and sisters-in-law, Melvin and Jodi Graber of Grabill, Marlin and Doris Graber of Grabill, Lynn and Allison Graber of Grabill, Curtis and Julia Graber of Woodburn, Carlin and Laura Graber of Fort Wayne and Corey and Sarah Graber of Grabill; a brother-in-law, Fabion Lengacher of Montgomery; his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Richard and Mary Lee of Leo; and many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Marjorie Graber, and a sister, Camilla Lengacher.

Services will be Friday at 10 a.m. in Sunrise Chapel Mennonite Church, 12732 Spencerville Road, Harlan. Burial will be in Yaggy Cemetery.

Calling will be today from 6-8 p.m. and Thursday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. and Friday from 9-10 a.m., all at the church.

Memorials are to the family.

Hockemeyer Funeral Home of Harlan is handling arrangements.

## Martha Blomeke

GARRETT — Martha Jean Blomeke, 75, of Garrett died Thursday, May 31, 2007, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Blomeke was a lifetime area resident

She was a 1950 graduate of Avilla High School.

She had retired in 1994 from Reike Corp. in Auburn after 30 years of service.

Mrs. Blomeke was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Garrett. She was a past member of the Daughters of Isabella and a former member of the Eagles Auxiliary.

She was born Dec. 12, 1931, in Avilla to George W. and Orpha (Gump) Freeman. She married Edwin F. Blomeke on May 2, 1952. He died May 6, 1989.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Anthony E. "Tony" and Nancy Blomeke of Kendallville and John L. and Janice Blomeke of Exeter, N.H.; a daughter, Regina M. Blomeke of Garrett; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Marjorie J. and Harold Miller of Garrett and Evelyn L. Blotkamp of Avilla; and five grandchildren, Ashley Bigelow, Andrew Bigelow, Austin Blomeke, Adam Blomeke, Abigail Blomeke and Alexandar Blomeke.

She was also preceded in death by her parents; five brothers, William Freeman, Melvin Freeman, Floyd Freeman, Robert Freeman and Russell Freeman; and a sister, Hilda Bergstrom.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Garrett with Father Daniel Leeuw officiating. Burial will be in Embrey Cemetery near Garrett.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Monday at David Funeral Home, 1292 Drake Road, Kendallville, with a rosary at 8 p.m., and one hour prior to services Tuesday at the church.

Memorials are to the American Diabetes Association or St. Joseph Catholic Church in Garrett.

## James Getts

ASHLEY — James L. Getts, 84, of Ashley died at 3:13 a.m. Friday, June 1, 2007, at Community Hospital North in Indianapolis.

Mr. Getts

Mr. Getts served in the U.S. Army and was a World War II veteran.

He was a retired farmer and sheet metal worker. He had been a member of the Sheet Metal Local 20 since 1948.

He was a member of Cedar Lake Church of Christ, Waterloo.

He was born on May 28, 1923, in DeKalb County to Clarence and Faye (Smith) Getts.

He married Edith Reecer on April 4, 1942. She survives.

Also surviving are two sons and daughter-in-law, Robert and Joyce Getts of Carmel and Richard Getts of Indianapolis; seven grandchildren, James Robert Getts II, Ryan Matthew Getts, Jeffrey Winters, Paul Getts, Jennifer Smith, Julia Getts and Joseph Getts; and 16 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Violet Gramling.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Monday at Cedar Lake Church of Christ, 1492 C.R. 27, Waterloo, with minister Steve Evans officiating. Burial will be at Circle Cemetery, Hudson.

Calling will be after 12:30 p.m. on Monday at the church.

Memorials are to the church.

Condolences may be sent to the family at Johnson@bnin.net.

Arrangements are by Johnson Funeral Home, Hudson.

## Devona Clayton

BUTLER — Devona P. Clayton, 97, of Butler, died Friday, June 1, 2007, at the Laurels of DeKalb Nursing Home in Butler.

Mrs. Clayton

She worked at General Electric in Fort Wayne for 30 years.

She was born Sept. 1, 1909, in Fort Wayne to John P. and Jenny M. (Kurtz) Dentzer. They preceded her in death.

Surviving are a son, Arden Clayton of Fort Wayne; two daughters, Lila Draper of Butler and Gloria Parks of Fort Wayne; a sister, Rosanna Roy of Fort Wayne; 27 grandchildren; several great-grandchildren; and great-great-grandchildren and a great-great-great-grandson.

She was preceded in death by three daughters, Eileen Rowe, Barbara Klug and Deloris Bercot; a son, Charles Clayton; three sisters, Juanita Metzer, Margaret Russell and Lura Drogmeyer; and three brothers, John, James and Myron Dentzer.

Services will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with Frank Weller officiating. Burial will be in Lindenwood Cemetery, Fort Wayne.

Calling will be Monday from 5-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Paralyzed Veterans Association.

## Martha Blomeke

GARRETT — Condolences may be sent online to the family of Martha J. Blomeke of Garrett to www.davidfuneralhome.net.

Mrs. Blomeke died May 31, 2007, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Garrett.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Monday at David Funeral Home, 1292 Drake Road, Kendallville, with a rosary at 8 p.m., and one hour prior to services Tuesday at the church.

Memorials are to the American Diabetes Association or St. Joseph Catholic Church in Garrett.

## Roscoe Taylor

WATERLOO — Roscoe C. Taylor, 86, of Waterloo died Friday, June 1, 2007, at Betz Nursing Home, Auburn.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. Marilyn Dunten officiating. Burial will be at Fairfield Cemetery, rural Corunna.

Calling will be from 2-6 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

A full obituary will be published in this newspaper's Sunday edition.

Arrangements are by Feller Funeral Home, Waterloo.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** *is being reprinted with corrections. We apologize for errors in a previous version.*

## Donald Ankney

NAPLES, Fla. — Donald H. Ankney, 67, of Naples, Fla., and formerly of Waterloo, died Friday, May 18, 2007.

Mr. Ankney was a construction superintendent for Arthur Rethenberg Homes in Naples and a veteran of the U.S. Army.

He was a member of several car clubs, including the Naples/Marco Island Antique Auto Club of America, the Antique Auto Club of America, the Auburn Cord Duesenberg (ACD) Club and the Model T Ford International Club. He was a lifetime member of the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum and a lifetime member of the NATMUS museum in Auburn. He also was a member of the Elks Lodge in Naples. He also loved tinkering with his own truck at home, and had a passion for fixing things, which he extended to others.

He was born Nov. 11, 1939, to Paul and Mary Frances Ankney.

He was married to Dorothy Ankney of Naples, who survives.

Also surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Lisa and Tim Dantzer of Fort Wayne and Laura and Mike Rowe of Waterloo; two brothers and a sister-in-law, Paul Ankney Jr. of Portland, Ore., and James and Patricia Ankney of Waterloo; his stepmother, Gwen Ankney of Auburn; three stepchildren and son-in-law, Teresa Morgenstern of Naples, John Araque of Angola and Maria and Kevin Walker of Winder, Ga.; three nieces; one nephew; 10 grandchildren; and two "children of his heart," Tim Alwood of Montgomery, Ala., and Dawn Walters of Goshen.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a son-in-law, Brett Morgenstern.

Private burial was Friday in Waterloo. Feller Funeral Home in Waterloo handled arrangements.

Memorials are to a charity of the donor's choice.

## Roscoe Taylor

WATERLOO — Roscoe C. Taylor, 86, of Waterloo, died Friday, June 1, 2007, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mr. Taylor was a Smithfield Township Farmer. He was a member of Barkers Chapel United Methodist Church in rural Waterloo. He was also a Grange member for 65 years.

He enjoyed Ashley FFA Canadian fishing trips, showing corn at the fair, fox hunting and ice fishing.

He was born Sept. 9, 1920, in Hamilton, to Russell H. and Madge Alta (Chapman) Taylor. They preceded him in death.

He married Olga Reinoehl Feb. 7, 1942, at Cedar Lake Church of the Brethren. She also preceded him in death April 15, 2002.

He is survived by two sons and a daughter-in-law, Robert Taylor of Chicago, and Dennis and Susan Taylor of Waterloo; two daughters and sons-in-law, Deanna and Gary Wehr of Frankfort, and Nancy and Gary Moore of Anderson; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Jean Edwards of Goodyear, Ariz., and Gwen and Sidney Bernstein of East Dundee, Ill.; 10 grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. The Rev. Marilyn Dunten and The Rev. Rick Pettys will officiate. Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery, Corunna.

Calling will be today from 2 to 6 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Barkers Chapel United Methodist Church of Smithfield Township 4-H in care of Dennis Taylor, 0303 C.R. 41, Waterloo.

## Novella Tarlton

GARRETT — Novella Tarlton, 91, of Garrett died at 6:22 a.m. Saturday, June 2, 2007, at her nephew's home.

She was a Garrett resident for 75 years and a farmer until she was 85. She was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Garrett. She loved to visit people and attend square dances.

Miss Tarlton

She was born Feb. 2, 1916, in DeKalb County to Elmer and Evelyne (Shutt) Tarlton.

She was survived by several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by four brothers, Marion "James" Sr., Sam, Lyle and Theo, and a half-brother, Dick Carnahan.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett. Burial will be in Cedar Creek Cemetery in rural Garrett.

Calling will be 9 to 11 a.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Parkview Health and Hospice.

Condolences may be sent online at www.thomasfuneral-home.com.

The EVENING STAR
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# Mr. Steury planted a seed in church

BY MICHAEL MARTURELLO
mikem@kpcnews.net

PLEASANT LAKE — It was fitting in many ways that Jonás Steury planted trees this spring around Pleasant Lake Mennonite Church.

Trees, of course, can symbolize the strength that comes from lumber, and Mr. Steury was a well-known builder in the Steuben County area.

Perhaps more fitting was the fact that Mr. Steury was again planting something that would be around for generations following an act of his generosity and caring that he had for his community.

Mr. Steury's life was cut short at age 70 on Thursday when he died from injuries sustained in a wreck in Angola.

Mr. Steury is credited with having done many things, but perhaps what will stand out among his accomplishments is being the person who initiated the formation of the Pleasant Lake Mennonite Church.

Ironically, in the final study session he attended with church members nearly two weeks ago, the conversation was about how people's actions can have a profound influence in the lives of others.

"The last time we met we talked about planting seeds in people's lives. He really planted a seed down there," said Jim Slabaugh, one of the pastors at Pleasant Lake Mennonite.

That seed took root about seven or eight years ago. Mr. Steury and other area Mennonites were traveling to Hicksville, Ohio, for church. Mr. Steury, seeing that the Ohio church was growing, decided it was time to start a church in Pleasant Lake.

During the first three years of the church's existence, members met at Steury's office, which is just north of where the church was eventually built at 5142 S. Old Highway 27. It opened in 2001. On any given Sunday, between 90 and 100 people attend services.

"My dad had a vision to start a church up here. The church in Ohio was getting full," said Ada Wagler, one of Mr. Steury's daughters.

"It was his vision to have a place where they could come to," Slabaugh said.

While Mr. Steury might have been the person who initiated the formation of Pleasant Lake Mennonite and the man who did the construction and put up a lot of his own resources for the facility, he never would accept a leadership role in the church.

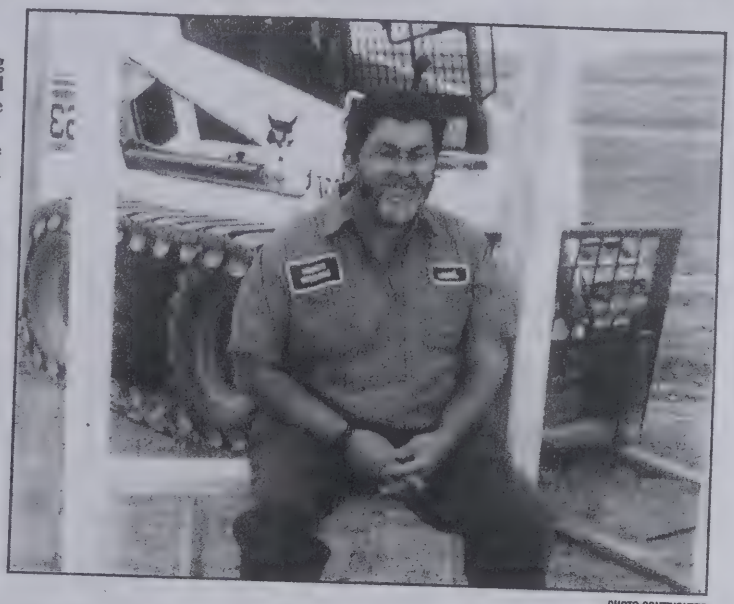

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Johas Steury is shown taking a break during the construction of the Pleasant Lake Mennonite Church which he was instrumental in forming. Mr. Steury died Thursday as a result of injuries incurred in a wreck in Angola.**

"He didn't want to take the glory for starting the church. He wanted all the glory to go to the church," Wagler said.

"A lot of people said it was his church but it wasn't," Slabaugh said. "He didn't want to take an official role. He wanted to stay behind the scenes."

Mr. Steury might have stayed behind the scenes, but he was very active in the church.

When he wasn't in Florida from January to March, Wagler said, he could be found at the church doing something almost daily.

"He made his rounds to the church. He was there every day," she said.

"People didn't really know what he did for that church," Slabaugh said.

That's because he was so giving of himself while not wanting any credit or glory.

In its short time in Pleasant Lake, the church has reached out and made itself available for community functions. The church has become a polling place, thanks to its location and accessibility for people with disabilities. It was supposed to be the site of a wedding for a non-church member on Saturday but that event had to be moved to Fairview Missionary Church in Angola because of the visitation for Mr. Steury.

In addition, Mr. Steury decided to build a cemetery on ground adjacent to the church, just to its south. Ironically, he will be the first person to be buried there.

"He'll be the first one in the cemetery," Wagler said. "He knew his time was coming. He had to get it done."

While it might seem that the church was all of Mr. Steury's life, he did enjoy golf, playing the mandolin and vacationing with his wife of 50 years, Delila, in Florida.

"He enjoyed life. He liked what he did. He never complained," Wagler said.

Services for Mr. Steury will be at 10 a.m. Monday at Pleasant Lake Mennonite Church. Calling will continue today from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. and an hour before the service, all at the church.

The EVENING STAR
June 2007 Auburn, Indiana



# Beating victim has died

**BY SUE CARPENTER**
suec@kpcnews.net

GARRETT — Police are now investigating a homocide as an elderly woman found beaten in her rural Garrett home two weeks ago has died, family members said.

Novella Tarlton, 91, died Saturday in the home of her nephew, Jim Tarlton, where she has been recuperating from severe head injuries sustained during what police believe to have been a burglary attempt on May 20.

Tarlton

She had been hospitalized for a week before she was released to the care of her family.

"She died peacefully," her nephew Marion Tarlton said Saturday afternoon.

Police have reported a "person of interest" is in custody in the DeKalb County Jail on a unrelated charge, said DeKalb County Sheriff's Department Chief Deputy Jay Oberholtzer.

Police obtained a search warrant to take DNA samples from the person and now await results from a crime investigation laboratory, DeKalb County Detective Lee Stoy said.

"I've got faith in (Sheriff) John Dennis, the sheriff's department and the state police," Marion Tarlton said. "The investigation is ongoing. They're on top of it, and have leads to follow."

An autopsy was performed Saturday, said DeKalb County Coroner Jeff Warner, who reported the time of death at 6:22 a.m.

"Everything is still under investigation right now," Warner said.

He said he has to wait for forensic results to return before he can make any conclusive report on the cause of death.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Novella Tarlton," DeKalb County Prosecutor ClaraMary Winebrenner said Saturday.

## VICTIM: *Law enforcement agencies continuing to collect case evidence*

The sheriff's department, Indiana State Police, and Auburn and Garrett police departments are continuing to gather evidence, along with earlier evidence in the case, she said.

"They are keeping my office up-to-date several times a day, including today," Winebrenner said.

Her office will not rush to conclusions to make charges in the case until all of the evidence is in, she added.

"We are pleased with the steady and sure progress made in the investigation," Winebrenner said.

A funeral service for Miss Tarlton is planned Wednesday. An obituary appears on Page A4.

## Bob Irwin

AUBURN — Bob H. Irwin, 66, of Auburn died Saturday, June 2, 2007.

Mr. Irwin retired from Citilink in 2002.

Mr. Irwin

He was born July 16, 1940, in Tennessee.

Surviving are his partner, Gloria Ray of Auburn; two daughters, Lisa Cartwright and Lori Irwin, both of Decatur; two sons, Bruce Irwin of Phoenix, Ariz., and Christopher Irwin of Decatur; a sister, Naomi Dorsey of Indianapolis; and eight grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Christina Irwin, and his parents, Preddy and Mytrle (Alston) Irwin.

Services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. at D.O. McComb & Sons Covington Knolls Funeral Home, 8325 Covington Road, Fort Wayne. Burial will be in Greenlawn Cemetery.

Calling will be Tuesday from 5-9 p.m. and Wednesday from 10-11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Heart Association or the American Diabetes Association.

## James Buss

AUBURN — James D. "Jim" Buss, 69, of Auburn died Monday, June 4, 2007, at his home in Auburn.

Mr. Buss was a shipping clerk at Rieke Corp. in Auburn for 30 years, retiring in 2000. He served in the U.S. Army from 1957 to 1963. He was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn.

Mr. Buss

He was born March 8, 1938, in Wolcottville to Lester and Olive (Durst) Buss.

He married Carol Struder on June 30, 1962, in Edgerton, Ohio. She survives.

Also surviving are two daughters, Kim Carthen and Dawn Buss, both of Auburn; two grandchildren, Ashlee and Nathan Carthen; a sister, Joy LaCour of Angola; and a brother, Walter Buss of Wolcottville.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, Hubert Buss, and a sister, Shirley Knowles.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn with Father Babasino Fernandez officiating. Burial will be in Maple Grove Cemetery in Edgerton, with military graveside honors conducted by Butler American Legion Post 202.

Calling will be Wednesday from 4-7 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, and Thursday from 9-10 a.m. at the church. The rosary will be recited at 3:45 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the church.

## Gwendolyn Suter

LEO — Gwendolyn D. Suter, 97, of Leo died Monday, June 4, 2007, at the Cedars Nursing Home in Leo.

She was a homemaker.

She was a member of the Trinity United Methodist Church in Hummelstown, Pa., and a graduate of Hummelstown High School.

She was born in Kentucky.

She is survived by a son and daughter-in-law, Darvin and Nancy Suter of Leo; seven grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, Elias and George Suter; two sisters, Violet Gunderman and Evelyn Anspach; and a son, Roy Eugene Suter.

There will be no services or calling. Burial will be in Hummelstown Cemetery in Hummelstown.

Arrangements are by McComb, Dilgard and Cline Funeral Home of Auburn.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** *is being reprinted with additional information.*

## Bob Irwin

AUBURN — Bob H. Irwin, 66, of Auburn died Saturday, June 2, 2007.

Mr. Irwin retired from Citilink in 2002.

Mr. Irwin

He was born July 16, 1940, in Tennessee.

Surviving are his partner, Gloria Ray of Auburn; two daughters, Lisa Cartwright and Lori Irwin, both of Decatur; two sons, Bruce Irwin of Phoenix, Ariz., and Christopher Irwin of Decatur; a sister, Naomi Dorsey of Indianapolis; and eight grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Christina Irwin, and his parents, Preddy and Mytrle (Alston) Irwin, and two brothers, P.G. and Tom Irwin.

Services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. at D.O. McComb & Sons Covington Knolls Funeral Home, 8325 Covington Road, Fort Wayne. Burial will be in Greenlawn Cemetery.

Calling will be today from 5-9 p.m. and Wednesday from 10-11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Heart Association or the American Diabetes Association.

## William Boden

AUBURN — A memorial service and celebration of the life of William H. "Bill" Boden will be held in Auburn in Willennar Hall of the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 13.

Mr. Boden

Mr. Boden, 77, died peacefully and painlessly, after a rather short illness, at Cape Coral (Fla.) Hospital on Dec. 6, 2006.

He was born Jan. 2, 1929, in Springfield, Mass., the son of William and Jessie (McMullen) Boden.

He and his family moved to Lima, Ohio, in 1937. He graduated from Lima Central High School as class valedictorian then, in 1951, from Purdue University as a Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering. He was a member of Phi Sigma Kappa, his fraternity at Purdue.

Among his many interests were the Boy Scouts of America, having been an Eagle Scout. He worked summers at Scout camp and retained a lifelong interest in Scouting.

He and his wife, Hope, enjoyed flying to many vacation destinations. They flew many family members and friends to various destinations during the years they owned an airplane. Mr. Boden was a generous donor to the Red Cross blood program.

Mr. Boden served in the Naval Reserve Officer's Training Corps during his Purdue years, then entered active duty as an ensign on the destroyer USS Richard B. Anderson, DD786, serving on that ship as electronics officer and navigator in combat zones until the end of the Korean War. He left the Navy ranked a full lieutenant after honorably serving for the duration of the conflict.

He married Hope Ann Burgoyne in 1951 in Auburn. They resided in Auburn and at the Bocilla Island Club, Bokeelia, Fla.

He ended his 40-year career with the Magnavox Corp. as senior vice president of governmental programs. He was a former president and board member of the Management Club of Fort Wayne. He contributed financially to many worthy causes.

While in Florida, he was active with local political causes, the Calusa Land Trust and the Randall (archeological) Research Center. He worked hard for a healthy ecological future for Pine Island, where his southern home was located.

Surviving are a sister, Thelma Boyer of Anderson; a sister-in-law and brother-in-law Jayne and Frank Beeler of Anderson; nieces and their families, Susan and Bob Gutshall and their daughters, Tabitha and Kirstin, of Daleville, Linda Boyer of Virginia Beach, Va., Angela and Jeff Smith and their children, Elyse and Brandon, of Glen Ellyn, Ill.; and a nephew and his family, Bill and Laura Beeler and their daughters, Lauren and Julia, of Anderson.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Hope, a sister Doris Boden, and a brother-in-law Robert Boyer.

Burial will be Forest Home Cemetery at Hicksville, Ohio.

## Wayne Bowman

WATERLOO — Wayne Bowman, 93, of Waterloo died Tuesday, June 5, 2007, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mr. Bowman

Mr. Bowman farmed all his life and ran the Waterloo Stockyards in the 1940s. He was a mechanic with Lepley Auto Sales in Ashley and a car salesman for Maxton Motors in Butler. He taught auto mechanics at DeKalb High School for eight years until his retirement in 1975.

He lived in Waterloo until 1975, when he and his wife, Opal, moved to Harlingen, Texas, where he lived for 27 years before returning to the Waterloo area.

A pilot, he loved flying planes. While in Texas, he belonged to the Confederate Air Force club, which rebuilds and maintains old aircraft.

He was a former member of the Waterloo City Blue Lodge and former president of the DeKalb County Farm Bureau Co-Op.

He was born June 1, 1914, in Waterloo to Clare and Dora (Lutz) Bowman.

He married Opal Knott on Nov. 25, 1933, in South Whitley. She died Dec. 12, 1994.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Robert W. and Jean Bowman of Waterloo; a daughter and son-in-law, Barbara and Tony Kleis of White House, Ohio; eight grandchildren and their spouses, Kevin and Rachel Bowman of Waterloo, Steven Bowman of Fort Wayne, Debra and Steve Teson of O'Fallen, Mo., Eric and Debbie Kleis of New Orleans, La., Mark Kleis of Noblesville, Patrick and Karen Kleis of New Carlisle, Ohio, Michael Kleis of Dallas, Texas, and Ann and Pablo Ramirez of Perrysburg, Ohio; and 13 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two sisters, Margaret Kalb and Thelma Till, and a granddaughter, Kimberly Jean Bowman.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. Dan White officiating. Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery.

Calling will be Friday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Heart Association.

## Ralph Reinig

AUBURN — Ralph Reinig, 78, of Auburn died Monday, June 4, 2007, at Miller's Merry Manor nursing home in Garrett.

Mr. Reinig worked as a heavy equipment operator with the International Union of Operating Engineers at Fort Wayne for more than 40 years, retiring in 1995.

He was born April 12, 1929, in Pleasant Lake.

Surviving are a son, Mark Reinig of Ashley, and two sisters, Veretta Warstler of Auburn and Anna Gissinger of Oregon.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Noretta I. (Dangler) Reining, in December 2002.

Services will be Saturday at 2 p.m. in McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Friday from 2-7 p.m. and Saturday from 1-2 p.m. at the funeral home.

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# Huge heart, great voice

## John D. Smith farmed and sang with passion

BY KATHRYN BASSETT
kathrynb@kpcnews.net

AUBURN — Family, farming and music are the three things John D. Smith enjoyed most in life, said his son, Thomas L. Smith of Auburn.

"Those were the three things that he devoted all of his time to," Smith said. "I never saw him play golf or go fishing or anything like that."

Mr. Smith died Monday, May 28, at the age of 95. He farmed his entire life on his family farm on the east edge of Auburn.

Mr. Smith used his passions for music and farming to make significant contributions to the community.

He was a member of the DeKalb County Fair Association for 50 years and a director of the DeKalb County Farm Bureau Co-op for 20 years. He helped organize the DeKalb County Soil Conservation Service, serving as its first president in 1947.

Using his farming expertise, he served as director of the Indiana Angus Association and was a charter member of the National Cattleman's Association. For many years, he was a beef cattle superintendent at the DeKalb County Free Fall Fair.

At the age of 78, Mr. Smith shared his skills with Daniel Yeboah of Ghana. He took on Yeboah for a year and taught him the American ways of farming.

In 1999, Mr. Smith received the Medal of Arts award from the Auburn Arts Commission in recognition of his extraordinary career as a baritone soloist.

At the awards reception in his honor, Mr. Smith recalled how his vocal journey began as a young boy, when he would wait for his mother, Cora Smith, to finish choir practice at St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church. Eventually he joined the choir, too.

Mr. Smith said he would practice his singing while working in the fields on his tractor.

Mr. Smith studied music at the American Conservatory in Chicago from 1930 to 1932 and sang on the National Barn Dance program on the WLS radio station in Chicago.

Mr. Smith auditioned with Howard Mayer of the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studio and was offered the chance of nightclub work in a large Detroit Hotel.

"He told the agent that he had a great wife at home and three wonderful kids, and he didn't want to live out of a suitcase," Thomas Smith said. "He came home."

Mr. Smith, alongside his wife of 64 years, Lois, went on to build a life as a successful businessman and farmer. His wife preceded him in death in 2002.

In a memory book compiled by his daughter, Sue Ann Walter, Mr. Smith said, "My wife and I were a success together."

*"He had great vision. He watched Auburn grow and wanted to be part of it"*

Thomas Smith
Speaking about his father

Walter said she remembers her father as a very busy man during her childhood.

"Between the farming, the singing and the organizations, I remember coming in, eating, cleaning up and being gone. But then I remember (my brothers) and I would be put to bed and he and my mother, who was a pianist, would practice their singing. Singing and playing — that's what we fell asleep with," she said.

Mr. Smith sang at numerous church survives, weddings, funerals and other events. He participated in a choral trip to Europe with "Sounds of Hope," singing at churches and cathedrals in England, Germany, France and the Netherlands. He sang "The Messiah" in the DeKalb Oratorio Chorus for 12 years and had been a member of the Auburn Presbyterian Church choir since 1957.

Thomas Smith recalled how his father would sing "O Holy Night" every Christmas Eve at the church's candlelight service.

"It was always awesome," he said.

Auburn Presbyterian Church choir director Julia Nixon described Mr. Smith as "a mainstay" in the church choir.

In later years, when failing eyesight forced Mr. Smith to retire from the choir, he continued singing in the congregation, knowing many of the hymns by heart, she said.

Nixon recalled many times when she would visit Mr. Smith either at his home, or later at the nursing home, and he would burst into song.

"There was never a time when he didn't sound strong and vibrant. He just didn't lose that huge, great voice of his," she added.

Nixon's daughter, Rebecca, wrote an essay on Mr. Smith when she was 18. Rebecca Nixon would pick up Mr. Smith on Sunday mornings and drive him to church. In her essay, she talked about how Mr. Smith showed his faith in God by his everyday actions and noted the influence he had on her life. She entitled her essay, "The Biggest Heart of Anyone I Know."

As well as making music, Mr. Smith loved to listen to the performances of others, Walter said. At home, he amassed an extensive collection of audio and video recordings that he enjoyed listening to and watching.

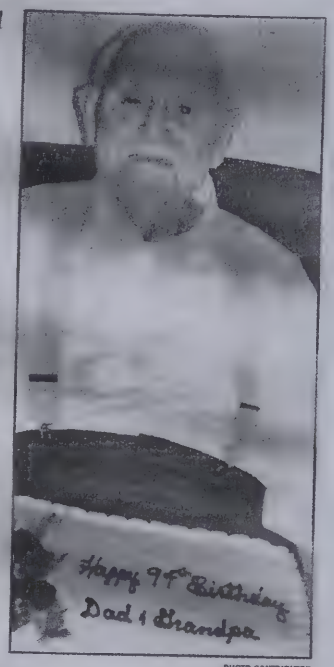



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**This photo was taken at the celebration of John D. Smith's 94th birthday. Mr. Smith died May 28, 2007, at the age of 95.**

Mr. Smith lived his entire life in the same home where he was born. The farm has been in his family since 1875 and was named a Hoosier Homestead Farm in 1976.

"He had great vision. He watched Auburn grow and wanted to be part of it," Thomas Smith said. He donated land to the City of Auburn for Smith Acres Park and Don Lash Park.

Thomas Smith said one of his father's dying wishes was that his six grandsons would serve as his pallbearers. His family was able to carry out that wish, he said.

"He was my coach and mentor," said Thomas Smith. "He taught me how to farm and raise a family and know the difference between right and wrong."

Along with Thomas Smith and his wife, Cathy, and his daughter, Sue Ann Walter and her husband, Paul, of Hillsdale, Mich., Mr. Smith also leaves a son and daughter-in-law, Paul D. and Carol Smith of Angola, eight grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and a stepgreat-grandaughter.

## Hazel Doctor

AUBURN — Hazel M. Doctor, 90, of Fort Wayne, died Friday, June 8, 2007, at Golden Years Homestead.

Born in rural Allen County, she was the daughter of Charles and Elisabeth Roemer and a member of Emmanual Lutheran Church-Soest, Fort Wayne.

Surviving her children and their spouses, DeWayne "Butch" and Judy Doctor and Sharon and Stan Palmer, all of Fort Wayne, and Karen and the Rev. Lloyd Bickel of Auburn; a brother and his wife, Russell and Marilyn Roemer of New Haven; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Delores Swanson of Fort Wayne and Audine and Bob Love of New Haven, seven grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Raymond in 1981; six sisters: ClaraBell Heemsoth, Dorothy Sheehan, Edna Boyer, Marcile Love, Hilda Anderson and Marie Bohren; and four brothers: Earl, Alvin, Charles and Kenneth Roemer.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Emmanuel Lutheran Church-Soest, 9909 Wayne Trace, Fort Wayne with calling one hour prior to the service. Burial will be in the church cemetery.

Additional calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Monday at E. Harper & Son Funeral Home, 740 Indiana Highway 930 E., New Haven.

Memorials are to Emmanuel Lutheran Church-Soest or Worship for Shut Ins.

## Anthony McEntee

FORT WAYNE — Anthony J. "Tony" McEntee, 80, of Fort Wayne, died June 9, 2007, at his daughter's home in Fort Wayne.

Mr. McEntee worked at International Harvester as a tool and die maker for over 36 years, retiring in July of 1980. He served in the U.S. Army from June 13, 1945, to Dec. 4, 1946.

Mr. McEntee

He was a former member of the St. Vincent DePaul Catholic Church in Fort Wayne.

He was born Feb. 10, 1927, in Tipton, Ohio, to Anthony J. McEntee Sr. and Valora (Adair) McEntee. Both parents preceded him in death.

He married Olive C. (Weaver) McEntee on April 17, 1948, in Fort Wayne, and she died Oct. 31, 2003, in Bradenton, Fla.

He married Marge (Greenfield) McEntee on Oct. 6, 2004, in Bradenton. She survives.

Also surviving are four sons and daughters-in-law, Tom and Deb McEntee of Fort Wayne, Tim and Sharon McEntee of Auburn, Vince and Betsy McEntee of Churubusco and Paul and Becky McEntee of Fort Wayne; two daughters and one son-in-law, Cathy McEntee of Fort Wayne and Jan and Mel Crawford of Fort Wayne; one daughter-in-law, Pam McEntee of Auburn; 12 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

He also was preceded in death by one son, Steve McEntee, and one brother, Paul Richard McEntee.

Private family services will be conducted at St. Vincent DePaul Catholic Cemetery at a later date

Memorials are to Heartland Home Health Care and Hospice, 1315 Directors Row, Suite 210, Fort Wayne, IN 46808.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home in Auburn is handling the funeral arrangements.

## Gwynn Harris

LAKELAND, Fla. — Memorial services for Gwynn Lee Harris will take place Friday at 2 p.m. at the Garrett First Church of Christ.

Mrs. Harris, 74, died April 26, 2007, in Lakeland, Fla., losing her battle with cancer.

She was active member of the North Lakeland Presbyterian Church. She also was involved in the Son Shiners Bible study and prayer group, the Cypress Lakes Women's Golf League, the curtain time players, several card clubs and volunteering in the Lakeland Regional Medical Hospital's surgical waiting room.

Mrs. Harris

She was born Jan. 11, 1933, to George and Helen Wade of St. Joe.

She graduated from Garrett High School in 1951 and married Dwayne Harris on May 30, 1951.

Surviving are two daughters, Jill Lynn of Independence, Ohio, and Jan of Orlando, Fla.; a son, Mark of Auburn; 10 grandchildren, Joey, Macie and Hallie Zumack, Alex and Samuel Blu Harris, Grayson and Anthony Saleeba, and Brody, Braden and Brant Langham; and her siblings, Pete Wade of Angola, Karen Hathaway of South Whitley and Mick Shafer of Omaha, Neb.

She was preceded in death by two children, Scott and Jill Lee.

## Rhoada Bainbridge

WATERLOO — Rhoada Bainbridge, 70, of Waterloo died Saturday, June 9, 2007, at Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home in Fort Wayne.

A homemaker and a lifetime Grant Township farmer, Mrs. Bainbridge attended the Waterloo United Methodist Church and was a DeKalb County 4-H leader.

She was the co-founder and president of the Meals on Wheels program for 13 years. She also is a past president of the DeKalb County Humane Society.

She was born Dec. 31, 1936, in Springfield Township in Allen County to LeRoy and Ester Housel Rudolph. They preceded her in death.

On Nov. 22, 1956, she married Robert Bainbridge. He preceded her in death Feb. 24, 1999.

Surviving are her children and their spouses, Steven Bainbridge of Waterloo, Susan and Bart Golden of Auburn and Sandra Sneary of Waterloo; two sisters, Betty Sebert of Butler and Nellie Wiggins of Waterloo; six grandchildren and their spouses, Jennifer and Nathan Fike, Bradley Bainbridge, Shannon Sneary, Carly Sneary, Tyler Golden and Coltin Golden; and two great-grandchildren, Megan Fike and Natalie Fike.

She also was preceded in death by three brothers, William, Forrest and Kenneth Rudolph.

Private family graveside services will be at Waterloo Cemetery. The Rev. Rex Charles will officiate.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Humane Shelter.

## Ronald Cramer

EDGERTON, Ohio — Ronald E. Cramer, 60, of Edgerton, Ohio, died Monday, June 11, 2007, at 10:28 a.m. in his home after a brief illness.

He was a 1967 graduate of Edgerton High School and was employed by Edgerton Manufacturing until its closing. He was active as a flea market merchant for many years and was a member of Life Changing Realities Church in Edgerton, Ohio.

He was born March 22, 1947, in Bryan, Ohio, to Harvey G. and Dessie I. (Mock) Cramer. His father died in 2007. His mother survives in Angola.

Other survivors include a son and daughter-in-law, Johnny and Pamela Cramer of Edon, Ohio; two granddaughters, Heather Cramer of Montpelier, Ohio, and Amanda Cramer of Edon, Ohio; and a brother and sister-in-law, Larry and Donna Cramer, of Coldwater, Michigan.

In addition to his father, he was preceded in death by a sister, Carol Sue Cramer in 1944, and a daughter, Ashley Dockery in 2006.

Services will be Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. in the Krill Funeral Home, Edgerton, Ohio. Burial will follow in Butler Cemetery.

Calling will be private.

Memorials are to the Williams County Humane Society in honor of Mr. Cramer's dog, Babe, or to Cancer Assistance of Williams County.

Condolences may be sent and the online register signed at www.krillfuneralservice.com.

## Ardith Picklesimer

GARRETT — Ardith LaVonne Picklesimer, 79, of Garrett, died Saturday, June 9, 2007, at 9:50 p.m. at her home.

Mrs. Picklesimer was an order packer at Stanadyne-Moen in Garrett for 35 years, retiring in 1989.

She was a member of the Calvary Chapel Worship Center in Auburn and enjoyed making quilts.

She was born May 27, 1928, in Garrett to Otto and Rose (Weldon) Genda. They preceded her in death.

Surviving are four daughters and three sons-in-law, Myrna and Robert Zmyslony of Garrett, Linda and Larry Girardot of New Haven, Brenda Bergdall of Fort Wayne and Karen and Chris Crooks of Garrett; a son, Marvin Picklesimer of Mims, Fla.; a sister, Delores Nodine of Garrett; 14 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a son, Robert Picklesimer, and two brothers, Otto J. and Virgil T. Genda.

Services will be Wednesday at 2 p.m. in Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, with Pastor Steve Ardhuerumly of Calvary Chapel Worship Center officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery of Garrett.

Calling will be Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Calvary Chapel Worship Center.

Condolences may be sent and an online register may be signed at www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

# Area TV personality Ann Colone dies at 77

FORT WAYNE — A fixture on early TV in Fort Wayne, Ann L. Colone, 77, died Tuesday, June 12, 2007, at her home after a brief illness.

Colone

Miss Colone hosted "The Ann Colone Show" for 18 years, from 1958 to 1976, and made hundreds of public appearances as a radio and television personality with both WGL AM-1250 and WANE Channel 15. "The Ann Colone Show" was one of the highest rated programs in Fort Wayne for many years, according to WANE NewsChannel 15. The show was live and featured such famous guests as Bob Hope, The Rolling Stones and James Earl Jones. She conducted numerous celebrity interviews that aired on WANE.

She was the first female disc jockey and the first woman to have a live Monday through Friday local TV show.

After her tenure at WANE-TV, Colone held several jobs, including positions with Arata Medical Group, the Wayne Township Trustee Poor Relief Agency and the Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

She had volunteered many years at Parkview Hospital and at the VA Hospital.

Miss Colone was involved in local theater and had served on many civic and government boards.

Christine Martin, Colone's niece, told NewsChannel 15, "Ann Colone was a huge part of Fort Wayne for many, many years. Everyone knew her, knew her name, knew her laugh, knew her smile. A big part of our family is gone today. Ann Colone was Fort Wayne's movie star. Ann Colone was Fort Wayne's celebrity."

She was born June 11, 1930, in Fort Wayne to Joseph and Mary (LaRosa) Colone.

Miss Colone graduated from Central Catholic High School in 1947 and worked at the family business, Colone Grocery, while she was growing up.

She was a member of St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church.

Surviving are three sisters and a brother-in-law, Josephine Cavacini and Virginia and J. Edward Keefer, all of Fort Wayne, and Martha Leto of San Rafael, Calif.; two sisters-in-law, Rose Colone and Josephine Calabrese; 30 nieces and nephews; and many great-nieces and great-nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; six brothers, Dominic, Ferdinand, Ralph, Anthony, Frank A. and Franklin D.; nephews, Joseph Colone, William Colone, Thomas Cavacini and Ronald Colone.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, with Msgr. John Suelzer officiating.

Calling will be from 2-9 p.m. Friday at D.O. McComb & Sons Maplewood Park Funeral Home and one hour prior to services Saturday at the church.

Memorials are to St. Mary's Soup Kitchen, Parkview Home Health Care & Hospice or Masses.

## Rich Hathaway

GARRETT — Rich F. Hathaway, 52, of Garrett died Monday, June 11, 2007, at 4:45 p.m. at his home.

Mr. Hathaway worked in assembly at Cooper Plant 221 for 15 years. He was a member of Steelworkers Local 634. He was an avid Green Bay Packers fan and loved to garden.

He was born Dec. 5, 1954, in Garrett to Elmer and Laurine (Downend) Hathaway. They preceded him in death.

Surviving are two sons, Sampson Hathaway who is serving in the U.S. Navy in Africa, and Chad Weikart, who is serving in the U.S. Navy on the U.S.S. Enterprise; four brothers, Eston Hathaway of Indianapolis, Cliffton Hathaway of Fort Wayne, George Hathaway of Florida and DeWayne "Bud" Hathaway of Garrett; and four sisters, May McDonald of Fort Wayne, Janet Scheurich of Garrett, Cindy Myers of Garrett and Faith Galligher of Garrett.

He was preceded in death by a sister, LaCleeda Maurer.

A memorial service will take place Saturday at 2 p.m. at the Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, with the Rev. Scott Davis officiating.

A gathering of friends and family will take place Saturday from noon to 2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Condolences may be left at www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

## Marcille Beerbower

ST. JOE — Marcille Ruth Beerbower, 82, of St. Joe died Tuesday evening, June 12, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital, Auburn.

Mrs. Beerbower and her husband, Frank, owned and operated the City Market in Auburn. She also worked at Rhinehart Manufacturing in Spencerville.

She was born June 26, 1924, in Spencerville to Roy and Irma (White) Harper. They preceded her in death.

She married Frank D. Beerbower on Feb. 24, 1955, in Angola. He preceded her in death on April 23, 2002.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Ed and Cheri Beerbower of Auburn; three daughters and two sons-in-law, Joy Shuff of Auburn, Renee and Lealon Stoy of Ashley and Nina and Ramon Chew of Fort Wayne; 11 grandchildren, Casey Chew, Kristin Chew, Toni Johnson, Lee Stoy, Jason Anderson, Somer Anderson, Michele Wilson, John Stoy, Terry Shuff, Jenese Brown and Renee Case; and 12 great-grandchildren, Jasmine Marsh, Danielle Rowland, Catlin Stoy, Jason Shuff, Leigha Brown, Carrie Johnson, Stephanie Stoy, Diane Shuff, Jayla Brown, Mathew Stoy, Connor Stoy and Morgan Wilson; and four great-great-grandchildren, Taylor Stopher, Luke Rowland, Katelyn Johnson and Gabrielle Rowland.

She was preceded in death by a grandson, DuWayne Holmes, and a brother and sister.

Services will be Saturday at 2 p.m. at the Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home, 6992 S.R. 1, Spencerville. Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery, St. Joe.

Calling will be Friday from 4 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to a charity of the donor's choice.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** *is being reprinted to correct errors in information submitted to this newspaper and a typographical error by our staff.*

## Ralph Reinig

AUBURN — Ralph Reinig, 78, of Auburn died Monday, June 4, 2007, at Miller's Merry Manor nursing home in Garrett.

Mr. Reinig worked as a heavy equipment operator with the International Union of Operating Engineers at Fort Wayne for more than 40 years, retiring in 1995.

He was born April 12, 1929, in Pleasant Lake.

Surviving are a son, Mark Reinig of Ashley, and two sisters, Vereda Warstler of Auburn and Anna Geisinger of Oregon.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Noretta I. (Dangler) Reinig, in December 2002.

Services were held Saturday in McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. Burial was in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

## Reynold Bly

GARRETT — Reynold Gene "Reggie" Bly, 64, of Garrett died Wednesday, June 13, 2007, in Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

**Mr. Bly**

Mr. Bly was a plant foreman for Freuhauf, where he worked for 21 years. He was also employed by Horizon Transport of Wakarusa for 15 years, where he delivered RVs.

He was a member of the Kendallville American Legion, a former member of the Allen County Sheriff's Reserve and a member and former president of the Fort Wayne 4-Wheel Drive Club.

Mr. Bly was born Jan. 26, 1943, in Fort Wayne.

Surviving are his wife, Janice K. Bly of Garrett; two sons and daughters-in-law, Donn and Kathleen Bly of Auburn and Chad and Deb Bly of Paulding, Ohio; a stepson and his wife, John and Lisa Cordes of Garrett; two stepdaughters and their husbands, Anna and G. Scot Dilts of Sumpter, S.C., and Amy and Chris Graham of Garrett; a brother, Wayne Bly of Fort Wayne; three sisters, Rita Lafferty and Myra Atkinson, both of Fort Wayne and Julie Smith of Louisville, Ky., 13 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

His first wife, Phyllis Jackson Bly, preceded him in death in 1995.

Services will be Saturday at 1:30 p.m. at Elzey-Patterson-Rodak Home for Funerals, 6810 Old Trail Road, Fort Wayne. Burial will be in Lindenwood Cemetery of Fort Wayne.

Calling will be Friday from 4 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana.

## Opal Zerkle

AUBURN — Opal I. Zerkle, 93, of Auburn died Thursday, June 14, 2007, at Shepherd of the Hill Nursing Home in Kendallville.

Mrs. Zerkle

Mrs. Zerkle was a homemaker and also worked at several area restaurants as a waitress. She managed the snack bar at the Auburn Bowling Alley several years ago. She worked at Messenger Corp. and then worked at Charleston Metals for nine years before retiring in 1975.

After her retirement and the death of her husband, she volunteered at DeKalb Memorial Hospital, the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, The Curiosity Shop (for 23 years), Eckhart Public Library and the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum. She was a former member of the Waterloo United Methodist Church.

She was born Nov. 22, 1913, in Swan to Artie L. and Nina (Little) Bricker. They preceded her in death.

She married Charles "Jim" Zerkle on Jan. 10, 1931, in South Bend. He died Sept. 3, 1992.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Richard Dean and Mary Zerkle of Kendallville; a daughter and son-in-law, Beverly and Basel Wertman of Churubusco; seven grandchildren and their spouses, David and Carol McNall of Auburn, Michael McNall of Katy, Texas, Ralph McNall Jr. of Katy, Texas, Randy and Connie McNall of Guy, Texas, Mary Beth and Tony Ficaro of Fort Wayne, Jeffrey and Anita Zerkle of Auburn and Christina and Ron Sproat of Huntertown; and 13 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, James and Paul Bricker, and a grandson, Ricky Lynn McNall.

Services will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. Burial will be in the Waterloo Cemetery.

Calling will be Monday from 4-7 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to a charity of the donor's choice.

## Robert Bertsch

BELLINGHAM, Wash. — Robert L. "Bob" Bertsch, 63, of Bellingham, Wash., and formerly of Garrett, died April 7, 2007, at St. Joseph Hospital in Bellingham.

He was born May 18, 1943, in Leesvitle, La., to Albert L. and Thelma Marie (Neible) Bertsch. They preceded him in death.

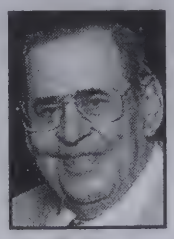
Surviving are two sisters, Sherry Bell of Auburn and Sally Sanders of Garrett, and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

He was preceded in death by a brother and a sister.

A graveside memorial service will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. in Christian Union Cemetery of Garrett with the Rev. Joe and Lois Freeman officiating.

# Former Angola Mayor Roman Beer, 80, dies

ANGOLA — Former Angola Mayor Roman D. Beer, 80, of Angola died Thursday, June 14, 2007, at Lakeland Nursing Center in Angola.


Mr. Beer

Mr. Beer served as mayor of Angola from 1976 to 1983, and on the city council from 1967 to 1973. He owned Punctual Printing, and previously worked at the Steuben Printing Co. He and his wife also owned the Dairy Queen on North Wayne Street. Mr. Beer was also a World War II Navy veteran.

He was a member of St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, Angola American Legion Post No. 81, VFW Post No. 7205, Angola Moose Lodge No. 1568, Angola Elks Lodge No. 2398 and the Angola Lions Club.

He was born in Berne on July 19, 1926, to Ermin and Edna (Rich) Beer. He married Thelma Birkmeier in Delphos, Ohio, on Oct. 1, 1949. She survives.

Also surviving are three daughters and sons-in-law, Sarah and Jim Lane of Fort Wayne, Ruth and David Wappes of Fremont, and Martha and Jeff Crooks of Angola; a son and daughter-in-law, Dr. Karl and Portia Beer of Toledo, Ohio; two sisters, Kathleen Affolder of Muncie, and Flossie Randels of Dallas, Ore.; 11 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

He was preceded in death by his parents, as well as a stepmother, Glenna Augsberger.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in Angola, with Father Fred Pasche officiating. Burial and military graveside services will be held in Circle Hill Cemetery in Angola.

Calling will be Monday from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m., with a vigil at 8 p.m. at H.E. Johnson and Sons Funeral Home in Angola.

Memorials are to Masses at the church, Cameron Home Healthcare and Hospice services or the Angola Parks Department.

Condolences may be sent to www.hejohnsonfh.com.

**THIS OBITUARY** *is being republished with new and revised information.*

## Dennis Thrush

GARRETT — Dennis Dale Thrush, 56, of rural Garrett, died Thursday, Nov. 30, 2006, at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Thrush worked for CSX Transportation as a conductor for 29 years.

While enlisted in the U.S. Navy, he served two years of active duty aboard the USS Proteus, AS-19, from 1971-1973.

He was a 1969 graduate of Garrett High School, a member of Garrett Eagles Aerie 1357, an avid fisherman who was known for his ice-fishing skills and a league bowler for 35 years.

He was born Oct. 7, 1950, at Sacred Heart Hospital in Garrett to Albert Heitz Thrush and Dorothy Bea (Lytle) Thrush. His mother survives in rural Garrett.

He married Sheryl Ann Griffin on May 14, 1977, at the Garrett United Methodist Church. She survives.

Also surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Craig Alan and Allison Rene Thrush and Todd Dennis and Katie Danielle Thrush, all of Garrett; two sisters-in-law, Diana Lynn Thrush of Garrett and Karen Sue Patton and her husband, Noah, of rural Corunna; a brother-in-law, Jeffrey Alan Stelzer of Auburn; and six grandchildren, Nathaniel James, Savannah Jordan, Dakota Faith, Camron Jae, Dalton Dennis and Marissa Renae.

He was preceded in death by his father and a brother, William Albert "Bill" Thrush.

Services were Dec. 5 at Feller and Clark Funeral Home of Auburn, with Pastor Clare Jewell and Pastor Russ Howard officiating. Burial was in Cedar Creek Cemetery of rural Garrett with a graveside military service by the Garrett post of the American Legion.

Memorials are to the Lakewood Park Baptist Church Deacons' Fund.

## Nondus Thompson

NEW HAVEN — Nondus M. Thompson, 87, of New Haven, died Friday, June 15, 2007, at St. Anne Home and Retirement Community, Fort Wayne.

She was a homemaker and a member of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, New Haven.

Born in Wabash, she was the daughter of Raymond and Kathryn Barrett.

Surviving are her son, Paul Thompson of New Haven; four daughters, Carol A. Webb of Garrett, Phyllis J. Paulauski of Highland, Kathryn E. Reisert of Salem and Mary J. Landis of Decatur, Ga.; two brothers, Bernard Barrett of Alexandria and Raymond Eugene Barrett of Winter Garden, Fla.; two sisters, Josephine Spears of Muncie and Patricia A. Holderman of Fort Wayne; 15 grandchildren, 24 great grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Blaine, in 1989; a grandson, Zachary; one sister and one brother.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 943 Powers St., New Haven. Burial will be in the Catholic Cemetery, Fort Wayne.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Monday, with rosary service at 3:30 p.m., in E. Harper & Son Funeral Home, 740 Indiana Hwy. 930 E., New Haven.

Memorials are to St. Jude Children's Hospital.

## Harold King

CHURUBUSCO — Harold A. King, 78, of Churubusco died Friday, June 15, 2007, at Parkview North Hospital in Fort Wayne.

**Mr. King**

Mr. King was a farmer and also worked as a tool maker at Merkler Machine Works in Fort Wayne for 34 years, retiring in 1997.

He was a member of the Modern Woodsmen, and enjoyed beekeeping, raising apples, woodworking and gardening.

He was born in Butler on Feb. 24, 1929, a son of Harold and Henrietta (Packer) King. He married Hilda Wince in North Webster on Aug. 1, 1960. She survives.

Also surviving are five sons and daughters-in-law, Austin and Lori King, Arden and Jill King, and Bradley and Kristin King, all of Churubusco, and Ivan and Nikki King and Eric and Jennifer King of Fort Wayne; a daughter and son-in-law, Brenda and Craig Sanford of Churubusco; a brother and sister-in-law, Roderick and Rhonda King of Larwill; three sisters and brothers-in-law, Eldora and Dan Daniel of Columbia City, Carolyn and Jan Fleck of Warsaw, and Treva and Stan Berry of Stockton, Calif.; nine grandchildren, one stepgrandchild; and two stepgreat-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and an infant sister, Mardell King.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Sheets and Childs Funeral Home in Churubusco, with the Rev. Terry Zolman officiating. Burial and military graveside services will be held in Eel River Cemetery near Churubusco.

Calling will be Monday from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Alzheimer's Association.

## Geraldine Bodkin

KENDALLVILLE — Geraldine "Gerry" Bodkin, 53, of Kendallville, died at 2 p.m. Thursday, June 14, 2007, in the Parkview Noble Hospital in Kendallville.

She was a resident of the area for 27 years, and since August 2001 a resident at Hickory Creek.

Mrs. Bodkin was a teacher at Head Start in Garrett for six years, and an Ivy Tech graduate with honors, a U.S. Army veteran during the Vietnam War era and a member of LaOtto Wesleyan Church.

On April 7, 1954, in Bronx, N.Y., she was born to Gerald and Rose (Caldararo) Esposito. She married Fred Bodkin who preceded her in death in 2005.

Surviving are her father in New Port Rickey, Fla.; her mother in Avilla; a daughter, Stacy Jorge, Palm Bay, Fla.; and son, John F. Peters II, Tempe, Ariz.; a brother, Vincent Esposito; and a granddaughter, Isabelle L. Jorge.

In addition to her husband, a brother, Michael Esposito, preceded her in death.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at LaOtto Wesleyan Church in LaOtto with Pastors Tyler Ward and Lois Watkins of the church officiating.

There is no calling.

Memorials are to the American Heart Association and LaOtto Wesleyan Church.

Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville, is in charge of arrangements.

Condolences may be sent online to: www.youngfamily-funeralhome.com.

## Carol Shears

GARRETT — Carol Lyn (Baker) Shears, 52, of Garrett, died at 11:08 p.m. Friday, June 15, 2007, at the Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home in Fort Wayne.

She worked in customer service at Pet Safe in Garrett for eight years, and was a member of the Garrett United Methodist Church.

Mrs. Shears

On Feb. 3, 1955, in Garrett, she was born to Marion L. and Phyllis A. (Christman) Baker. She married Gene A. Shears on July 21, 1979, in Fort Wayne. He survives.

Also surviving are her mother, Phyllis A. (Baker) Albertson, Garrett; a daughter, Ashley Shears, Garrett; a son, Tyler Shears, Garrett; three sisters and two brothers-in-law, Cynthia S. and Ray Kelham, Garrett, Mary Baker, Garrett, and BethAnn and Shawn Rose, Auburn.

Her brother, Doug Baker, and father preceded her in death.

Services will be at 7 p.m. Monday at Thomas Funeral Home, Garrett.

Calling will be from 3 to 7 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Garrett United Methodist Church or Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home.

Condolences may be sent online to: www.thomasfuneral-home.org.

# Mrs. Zeiger brought smiles to court

**BY MICHAEL MARTURELLO**
mikem@kpcnews.net
**AND TIFFANY YODER**
tiffanyy@kpcnews.net

ANGOLA — For well over two decades, there was a charming smile to be found in Steuben Circuit Court.

That smile belonged to Marjorie A. Zeiger, 74, Pleasant Lake, who died June 9.

Whether she was at the front desk, going through court records or sitting at the court reporter's station at the bench, Mrs. Zeiger always had kind words and a smile for visitors to the court, be they attorneys, press or litigants.

"The thing that people who would come into the court would remember was her smile," said former Judge Dane Tubergen, who presided over the court for most of Zeiger's tenure. "She was so friendly and outgoing that it was easy to associate the courthouse with Marj. What can I say?"

Tubergen said Mrs. Zeiger was so good at her job that it made his work easier.

"She became so very good at what she did that I didn't have to supervise," Tubergen said. "Very, very loyal to me and the job."

Her loyalty to her job did not end when she retired in the late 1990s. Even though she was preparing to leave, she reserved her time to help train the new court reporter, Linda Busche. After only two days together, the two became close.

"It was like we knew each other forever," Busche said. "It was like sitting down with her and talking like I had just talked with her yesterday."

What Mrs. Zeiger did well was make people feel comfortable when they entered the court. This was particularly so with attorneys from out of town who had the occasion to practice in Steuben Circuit Court.

These attorneys were used to seeing many court reporters across Indiana, but Mrs. Zeiger remembered their names and treated them like friends.

"She made them feel at home," Tubergen said.

This sort of devotion was sort of an extension of the way Mrs. Zeiger treated most everyone, especially her family.

Mrs. Zeiger and her husband, Jack, went to lunch together practically every day. He would pick her up and off they would go. Other times he could be seen waiting for Mrs. Zeiger to get off work and they would ride home or attend a social function.

"I was always so taken by how devoted she and Jack were to each other," Tubergen said.

She also was very close to her children and took great pride in her grandchildren.

Her children include, Bruce Zeiger of Huntertown, Beth Antrup of Kansas City, Mo., Belinda Felton of Las Vegas, Nev., and Melissa Girod of Middle Point, Ohio. She has eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

"She was an extremely proud grandmother," Tubergen said.

Jack also noted how close she remained to her children, even after they moved away.

"She loved her kids," he said. "It was always special when we got to see them."

Mrs. Zeiger and Tubergen were not only connected by the court but by their love of music. While Tubergen would not be found on stage anywhere near as often as Zeiger, both loved singing. Mrs. Zeiger was involved with Sweet Adelines for some 25 years. She was a member of numerous quartets over the years and often entertained throughout the area.

Carolyn Macomber, a friend who performed with her, said Mrs. Zeiger's signature song was "I Don't Know Why I Love You Like I Do."

"She would bring the house down with that one," she said.

She also was active in community theater. Mrs. Zeiger's most well-known role was playing the lead in "Mame."

Services and burial will be held at a later date so all family members can take part.

## Hilda Batdorf

AUBURN — Hilda L. Batdorf, 93, of Auburn died Saturday, June 16, 2007, in her home.

Mrs. Myers had been a telephone operator for Indiana Bell for 25 years, retiring in 1968. She then worked as an operator for Parkview Hospital from 1970-75.

She was a member of Telephone Pioneers of America, Phythian Sisters and Rebecca Lodge. She was a long-time bowler and a member of the Women's Bowling Association.

She was born October 4, 1913, in Auburn to William and Elizabeth (Ruddf) Batdorf.

Surviving are a niece, Ann Palmer of Springfield, Mo.; three great-nieces, Kris Linvill of Otterbein, Ind., and Dawn Kahlenbeck and Amy Nuby, both of Fort Wayne; and a nephew, Scott Kahlenbeck of Springfield, Mo.

She was preceded in death by a sister and brother-in-law, Faleska and Robert Pfleiderer.

Services will be Tuesday at 3 p.m. at Feller-Clark Funeral Home in Auburn. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Calling will be from 1-3 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Fort Wayne Visiting Nurses and Hospice.

## Bertha Conley

AVILLA — Bertha Conley, 89, of Avilla and formerly of Stroh died at 2:15 a.m. Monday, June 18, 2007, at Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla.

Mrs. Conley had lived in Stroh for 49 years before moving to the nursing home in March 2005.

She had worked at McCray Refrigeration in Kendallville and at Transogram in Sturgis, Mich., for many years.

Mrs. Conley was a former member of True Church of God.

She enjoyed gardening and canning.

She was born Aug. 26, 1917, in Knott County, Ky., to Jack and Lona (Bailey) Handshoe. She married Chick Conley on Sept. 5, 1935, in Knott County. He died Jan. 14, 1986.

Surviving are two daughters and a son-in-law, Pauline J. and Stuart Piner of Wilmington, N.C., and Irene Summers of Auburn; two sons, Harold J. Conley of Angola and Darrell Conley of Stroh; two half sisters, Glenna Gibson and Myrtle Bailey, both of Kentucky; six grandchildren; several great-grandchildren; and several great-great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by her parents; a daughter, Colleen Collins; a grandson; four brothers; four sisters; and two sons-in-law.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday at Young Family Funeral Home, Wolcottville Chapel, with the Rev. Glen Patrick officiating. Burial will be in Woodruff Cemetery.

Calling will be from 4-8 p.m. today at one hour prior to services Wednesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Lung Association.

Condolences may be sent online to www.youngfamily-funeralhome.com.

## Harold Powell Sr.

FREMONT — Harold D. Powell Sr., 63, of Fremont died Sunday, June 17, 2007, at his home.

Mr. Powell Sr.

Mr. Powell retired from Cooper Tire in Auburn in 2006.

He was born May 14, 1944, in Jackson, Mich., to Bany and Lena (Gee) Powell. He married Diane Yohey on Dec. 11, 1965, in Jackson. She survives.

He is also survived by three sons and a daughter-in-law, Harold Powell Jr. of Fremont, Brian Powell, and Ronnie and DiDi Powell, all of Angola; a brother, Alvin Powell of Jackson; two sisters, Catherine Norman and Mary Singer of Jackson; eight grandchildren; three step-great-grandchildren; and one great granddaughter.

He was preceded in death by his parents, as well as two bothers, Arthur and Ralph Powell; and a sister, Bonnie Wolf.

Services are Friday at 1 p.m. at the H.E. Johnson and Sons Funeral Home in Angola, with pastor Bob Koenig officiating. Burial will be in Circle Hill Cemetery in Angola.

Calling is from 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family.

Condolences may be left at www.hejohnson.fh.com.

## Dorothy Loft

TIPTON — Dorothy Ellen Loft, 86, of Tipton died at 8:10 a.m. Monday, June 18, 2007, at Tipton Hospital.

She had worked at Joann's House of Flowers in Tipton and was a loving wife and mother.

She was born March 23, 1921, to William and Dorothy Ellen (Preston) Wappes.

On May 10, 1941, she married Gerald F. Loft, and he survives.

Also surviving are two daughters, Freida Coy and her friend, John Tucker, of Largo, Fla., and Nancy Ashley and her husband, Jim, of Tipton; three brothers, George Wappes of Garrett, Max Wappes of Auburn and Jack Wappes of Garrett; one sister, Shirley Griffin of Garrett; four grandchildren, Brian Coy of Largo, Fla., Scott Coy of Greenwood, Kelli McGregor of Kokomo, and Brad Vanosdol of Noblesville; and nine great-grandchildren, Stacy Coy, Charlie Coy and Levi Coy of Greenwood, Becca McGregor, Emma McGregor and Sammy McGregor of Kokomo, and Connor Vanosdol, Taylor Vanosdol and Clare Vanosdol, all of Noblesville.

She was preceded in death by three siblings, William Wappes, Jr., Ora McFarland and Merlin Wappes.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday at Young-Nichols Funeral Home, 216 W. Jefferson St., Tipton, with the Rev. Steve Loft and the Rev. Charles Anderson presiding. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery.

Calling will be from 5-8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Arthritis Foundation, 615 N. Alabama St., Suite 430, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** *is being reprinted with corrections. We apologize for an editing error that required one of the corrections.*

## Hilda Batdorf

AUBURN — Hilda L. Batdorf, 93, of Auburn died Saturday, June 16, 2007, in her home.

She had been a telephone operator for Indiana Bell for 25 years, retiring in 1968. She then worked as an operator for Parkview Hospital from 1970-75.

She was a member of Telephone Pioneers of America, Pythian Sisters and Rebekah Lodge. She was a longtime bowler and a member of the Women's Bowling Association.

She was born Oct. 4, 1913, in Auburn to William and Elizabeth (Rudolph) Batdorf.

Surviving are a niece, Ann Palmer of Springfield, Mo.; three great-nieces, Kristi Linvill of Otterbein, Ind., and Dawn Kahlenbeck and Amy Nelley, both of Fort Wayne; and a nephew, Scott Kahlenbeck of Springfield, Mo.

She was preceded in death by a sister and brother-in-law, Faleska and Robert Pfleiderer.

Services will be today at 3 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Calling will be today from 1-3 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Fort Wayne Visiting Nurses and Hospice.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** *is being reprinted with new information provided by the funeral home.*

## Dorothy Loft

TIPTON — Dorothy Ellen Loft, 86, of Tipton, died at 8:10 a.m. Monday, June 18, 2007, at Tipton Hospital.

She had worked at Joann's House of Flowers in Tipton and was a loving wife and mother.

She was born March 23, 1921, to William and Frieda (Preston) Wappes.

On May 10, 1941, she married Gerald F. Loft, and he survives.

Also surviving are two daughters, Freida Coy and her friend, John Tucher, of Largo, Fla., and Nancy Ashley and her husband, Jim, of Tipton; three brothers, George Wappes of Garrett, Max Wappes of Auburn and Jack Wappes of Garrett; one sister, Shirley Griffin of Garrett; four grandchildren, Brian Coy of Largo, Fla., Scott Coy of Greenwood, Kelli McGregor of Kokomo, and Brad Vanosdol of Noblesville; and nine great-grandchildren, Stacy Coy, Charlie Coy and Levi Coy of Greenwood, Becca McGregor, Emma McGregor and Sammy McGregor of Kokomo, and Connor Vanosdol, Taylor Vanosdol and Clare Vanosdol, all of Noblesville.

She was preceded in death by three siblings, William Wappes Jr., Ora McFarland and Merlin Wappes.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday at Young-Nichols Funeral Home, 216 W. Jefferson St., Tipton, with the Rev. Steve Loft and the Rev. Charles Anderson presiding. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery.

Calling will be from 5-8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Arthritis Foundation, 615 N. Alabama St., Suite 430, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

## William Morningstar

AUBURN — William H. "Bill" Morningstar, 82, of Auburn died Wednesday, June 20, 2007, at Lutheran Hospital, Fort Wayne.

Mr. Morningstar was a painter and decorator for the past 45 years, working for union contractors local 469 and retiring on Oct. 29, 1988.

He was a U.S. Army veteran, serving in World War II.

He was a member of Painter's Local 469. He was a past commander of the Auburn American Legion Post 97 and was a member of the Loyal Order of the Moose Lodge 556, Auburn.

He was born July 22, 1924, in Adams County to Henry D. and Lenora A. (Coffman) Morningstar. They preceded him in death.

He married Connie J. Cox on Nov. 17, 2005, in Auburn and she survives.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, David R. and Molly Morningstar of Woodburn; two daughters, Janet Spear of Dallas, Ore., and Debra J. Koontz of Fort Wayne; a brother and sister-in-law, John E. and Cindy Morningstar of Auburn; a sister, Doris J. Bush of Winchester; 12 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; his mother-in-law, Gladys Cox of Hudson; a brother-in-law, John Cox and his wife, Amy, of Waterloo; a sister-in-law, Charlotte Fee of Auburn; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by a son, William L. Morningstar; a daughter, Sally Ann "Sam" Gramelspacher; two brothers, Thomas E. Morningstar and Robert H. Morningstar; and a sister, Mary K. Ellis.

Services will be Saturday at 3 p.m. at the Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Charles Witt officiating. Military services will be conducted by American Legion Post 97 of Auburn.

Calling will be Friday from 3 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family.

## James Johnson

AUBURN — James L. Johnson, 67, of Auburn died Thursday, June 21, 2007, at his home with his family by his side.

Mr. Johnson owned and operated the Carpet Gallery in Auburn for more than 30 years, retiring in 2004. He then managed the S&S Express in Garrett for the past two years. He was a U.S. Army veteran.

He graduated from New Castle High School. He was a Commissioner for the Boy Scouts of America. He was Scoutmaster of Troop 178 in Garrett and was an Eagle Scout and a member of the Wood Badge Adult Training Camp.

He was born Nov. 6, 1939, in New Castle to Charles and Deloris (Good) Johnson.

He married Linda Schlosser on Oct. 5, 1972, in Coldwater, Mich., and she survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are three sons and two daughters-in-law, Anthony and Jane Johnson of Fort Wayne, James M. and Mary Johnson of Fort Wayne and Brian Johnson and his fiancee, Melissa Cutter, of Fort Wayne; three grandchildren, Anissa Johnson, Zakkairy Johnson and Josie Johnson; five stepgrandchildren, Samantha, Steven and Kimberly Owsley, Disiree Keen and Craig Casselman; his mother, Deloris Johnson-Smith of Auburn; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father, his stepfather, Beecher G. Smith, and a brother, Bob Johnson.

## Lorraine Bauman

AUBURN — Lorraine Catherine (Hentschel) Bauman, 80, of Auburn died today, Friday, June 22, 2007, at Wesley Healthcare in Auburn.

She was a homemaker and member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Auburn. She had been an Auburn resident since October 1946.

She was born January 4, 1927, in Brooklyn, N.Y., to George T. and Lillian (Lacalli) Hentschel. She married Carl Raymond Bauman August 18, 1946, in Long Island, N.Y., and he survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are three daughters, Carolyn Platt of Fort Wayne, Janette Pressler of Auburn and Laura Gurgos of Bartlett, Ill.; a son, Kenneth Bauman of South Whitley; seven grandchildren; four stepgrandchildren; one great-grandchild; and three stepgreat-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a sister, Helen Jefferson.

A worship service to be held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Auburn is pending.

Services will be Monday at 1 p.m. at the Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with Father David Carkenord officiating. Burial will be in St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery, Waterloo. Calling will be Sunday from 2 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Anthony Wayne Scout Reservation Aquatics Department.

## Mary Eberhard

GARRETT — Mary Elizabeth "Liz" Eberhard, 83, of Garrett died Thursday, June 21, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mrs. Eberhard

Mrs. Eberhard was a lifetime member and past president of the Sigma Phi Gamma sorority and past president of the American Legion Auxiliary.

She was born July 20, 1923, in Ottumwa, Iowa, to Arthur and Lucy (Baker) Galey. She married Dr. Roger G. Eberhard September 26, 1946, in Chicago, Ill. He died in 1988.

Surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Craig Eberhard of Garrett and Joel and Linda Eberhard of Huntertown; two daughters and a son-in-law, Judy Saucy of Bakersfield, Calif., and Patricia Krus Baidinger and Donald Baidinger; six grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by a sister, Louise Galey; six brothers, Daniel, Theodore, Paul, Richard, James and John Galey; and one grandchild.

A graveside service will be Sunday at 1 p.m. in Eberhard Cemetery in Columbia City with Pastor Jim Lilley officiating.

Calling will be from Saturday from 2-5 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett.

Memorials are to the Lions Club Eye Bank.

## Alice Beber

GARRETT — Alice M. Beber, 89, of Garrett died Wednesday, June 20, 2007, at 5:30 p.m. at her home.

Mrs. Beber was a clerk at Laura Williams Grocery in Garrett for 16 years and then at Handy Andy in Garrett for five years, retiring in 1985.

She was a member of the Garrett Presbyterian Church and the Garrett Eagles Auxiliary.

She was born Dec. 24, 1917, in Garrett to Walter and Blanche (Ayres) Alford. They preceded her in death.

She married Charles D. Beber Dec. 17, 1936, in Garrett and he preceded her in death June 14, 1976.

Surviving are a son, Walter "Butch" Beber of Garrett; two daughters, Sharon Cramer and Mary Beber, both of Garrett; 12 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, she also was preceded in death by a daughter, Sheila Neeley; four brothers, Dr. James Alford, Russell Alford, Donald Alford and Leonard Alford; and three sisters, Laura Williams, Hellen Steward and Undine Taylor.

Services will be Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, with the Rev. Howard Compton and the Rev. Bill Hambright officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery, Garrett.

Calling will be Monday from 2 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Garrett Presbyterian Church.

Condolences may be left at www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

## Anne Likens

AUBURN — Anne Likens, 46, of Auburn died Wednesday, June 20, 2007, at Lutheran Hospital, Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Likens worked at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn until a few years ago.

She was born Nov. 4, 1960, in Fort Wayne, to James and Janet (LaMarr) Maier. Her mother preceded her in death and her father survives in Madison, Fla.

She married Scott Likens on Feb. 28, 1998, in Auburn and he survives.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Kellen and Toni Mitchener of Pleasant Lake; a daughter and son-in-law, Jessica and Tony Ruiz of Garrett; two stepchildren, Brian Likens of Montpelier, Ohio, and Kristi Likens of Auburn; a brother, Eric Maier of Danbury, Conn.; a sister, Amanda Maier of Auburn; and six grandchildren, Kaleb Samons, Kameron Ruiz, Zach Adams, Abbigayle Manns, Jerry Manns and Anthony Mitchener.

She was preceded in death by a brother, William Maier.

Private family services will take place at a later date.

Calling will be Saturday from noon to 2 p.m. at the Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn.

Memorials are to the family.

## Lois Kester

WATERLOO — Lois E. Kester, 82, of Waterloo died Friday, June 22, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital.

Mrs. Kester

Mrs. Kester graduated from International Business College. She worked at Flint and Walling in Kendallville and part-time for the Waterloo Post Office. For over 30 years, she was a legal secretary for Phyllis Gratz Poff.

She was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Auburn. She was past president of the Beta Lambda chapter of Beta Sigma Phi. She loved to spend time in her garden and was an excellent bridge player.

She was born Aug. 28, 1924, in Boyceville, Wis., to Ernest and Ella (Ziehr) Karlen.

She married E. Wayne Kester on Aug. 25, 1946, in Kendallville. He survives.

Also surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, David W. and Diana Kester of Columbia City, and Robert K. and Denise Kester of Waterloo; a daughter and son-in-law, Penny and Donald Kryder of Butler; seven grandchildren, Shannon Kester, Whitney Kester, Joseph Nalley, Amanda Kester, Kristy Kester, Daniel Kryder and Ashlie Krider; five great-grandchildren, Jayda Kester and Amaris Kester, and Malyssa, Annette and Byron Nalley; and three sisters and one brother-in-law, Lorraine Sedel of Kendallville, Dorothy Leighty of Kendallville, and Pat and Art Filckinger of Fairfax Station, Va.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Robert Karlen, and a sister, Ardis Jean Karlen.

Services will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1801 N. Main St., Auburn, with the Rev. Lloyd Bickel officiating. Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery.

Calling will be from 4-8 p.m. Monday at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, and one hour before the service.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society or DeKalb County Heart Association.

## Mary Mathys

GARRETT — Mary Ellen Mathys, 78, of Garrett died Friday, June 22, 2007 at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Mathys

Mrs. Mathys was a homemaker.

She was born April 25, 1929, in Indianapolis to Clyde V. and Rosemond Woodward. They preceded her in death.

She married Richard Mathys on Nov. 9, 1952, in Muncie. He survives in Garrett.

Also surviving are four daughters and sons-in-law, Deborah and Fred Klink of Garrett, Cynthia and Brian Higbee of Angola, Terri and Kim Hendrickson of Garrett and Linda and Steve Grimm of Garrett; one son, Jeff Mathys of Garrett; nine grandchildren, Shannon, Megan and Kacy Hardenbrook, Jessica Hildebrandt, Kimberly Hendrickson, Jennifer Garringer, Stephanie Patton, Madyson Grimm and Stephen Mathys; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 3 p.m. Monday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Services will be conducted by Marlene Ellis.

Visitation will be from 2 to 3 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** *is being reprinted to include new information about services.*

## Lorraine Bauman

AUBURN — A worship service will be held Monday at 11 a.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Auburn for Lorraine Catherine (Hentschel) Bauman, 80, of Auburn, who died Friday, June 22, 2007, at Wesley Healthcare in Auburn.

She was a homemaker and member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Auburn. She has been an Auburn resident since October 1946.

She was born Jan. 4, 1927, in Brooklyn, N.Y., to George T. and Lillian (Lacalli) Hentschel. She married Carl Raymond Bauman Aug. 18, 1946, in Long Island, N.Y., and he survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are three daughters, Carolyn Platt of Fort Wayne, Janette Pressler of Auburn and Laura Gurgos of Bartlett, Ill.; a son, Kenneth Bauman of South Whitley; seven grandchildren; four stepgrandchildren; one great-grandchild; and three stepgreat-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a sister, Helen Jefferson.

There will be no calling. The Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, is in charge of arrangements.

## James Johnson

AUBURN — James L. Johnson, 67, of Auburn died Thursday, June 21, 2007, at his home with his family by his side.

Mr. Johnson

Mr. Johnson owned and operated the Carpet Gallery in Auburn for more than 30 years, retiring in 2004. He then managed the S&S Express in Garrett for the past two years. He was a U.S. Army veteran.

He graduated from New Castle High School. He was a commissioner for the Boy Scouts of America. He was Scoutmaster of Troop 178 in Garrett and was an Eagle Scout and a member of the Wood Badge Adult Training Camp.

He was born Nov. 6, 1939, in New Castle to Charles and Delores Jeanne (Good) Johnson-Smith.

He married Linda Schlosser on Oct. 5, 1972, in Coldwater, Mich., and she survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are three sons and two daughters-in-law, Anthony and Jane Johnson of Fort Wayne, James M. and Mary Johnson of Fort Wayne and Brian Johnson and his fiancee, Melissa Cutter, of Fort Wayne; three grandchildren, Anissa Johnson, Zakkairy Johnson and Josie Johnson; five stepgrandchildren, Samantha, Steven and Kimberly Owsley, Desiree Keen and Craig Casselman; his mother, of Auburn; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father, his stepfather, Beecher G. Smith, and a brother, Bob Johnson.

Services will be Monday at 1 p.m. at the Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. David Carkenord officiating. Burial will be in St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery, Waterloo.

Calling will be Sunday from 2 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Anthony Wayne Scout Reservation Aquatics Department.

## Peggy Wilber

FORT WAYNE — Peggy S. Wilber, 65, of Fort Wayne died at 1:10 a.m. Friday, June 22, 2007, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne, following a brief illness.

Mrs. Wilber lived in Fort Wayne for 40 years. She worked at Superior Sample in Fort Wayne.

She was born Sept. 6, 1941, in Noble County to W. Franklin and Nina M. (Weaver) Growcock. They preceded her in death.

She married James L. Wilber on Dec. 17, 1966. He survives in Fort Wayne.

Also surviving are two children, Mike Wilber of LaOtto and Michele Wilber of Fort Wayne; three grandchildren, Brittany, Brooke and Bailey; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Robert and Karen Growcock and James and Kathy Growcock, all of Wolcottville; three sisters and two brothers-in-law, Mary Jo Gard of Fremont, Nancy and Harold Fulford of Wawaka, and Beverly and Raymond Groves of Albion; and one sister-in-law, Linda Growcock of Auburn.

She was also preceded in death by three sisters, Shirley Rink, Donna Growcock and Jean Huth; and one brother, Pete Growcock.

Services will be Monday at 2 p.m. at Brazzell Funeral Home, 530 N. Main St., Avilla, with the Rev. Dan Barker officiating. Burial will be in Avilla Cemetery.

Calling will be from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

## Sherry Hesting

COLUMBIA CITY — Sherry D. Hesting, 61, of Columbia City died at 6:20 a.m. Saturday, June 23, 2007, at Hospice Home in Fort Wayne after a two-year battle with breast cancer.

Mrs. Hesting was a 1963 graduate of Garrett High School and had received an associates degree in 1983 from Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne.

She had worked at the YWCA Women's Shelter, St. Vincent's Homeless Shelter and Wells Flowers and Gift Shop in Indianapolis.

Mrs. Hesting

Mrs. Hesting was a member of St. Paul of the Cross Catholic Church and was a former member of St. Catherine's Rosary Sodality. She had volunteered at the Light House Homeless Shelter in Columbia City and the Damian Center in Indianapolis.

She had also been active with the PTO, Girls Scouts and Boy Scouts.

Mrs. Hestings was born Oct. 23, 1945, in Cumberland, Md., to Richard E. and Jean (Ketzner) Parsons. They survive in Willard, Ohio. She married Thomas E. Hesting on Oct. 17, 1964, at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Willard, Ohio. He survives.

Also surviving are five children, Chantel Hesting of Carmel, Chad and Amy Hesting of Fort Wayne, Tiffany Hesting and Andrew Sprague of Avilla, Zachary and Amy Hesting of Columbia City and Mary Sullivan of Bozeman, Mont.; a sister, Linda and Jim Austin of Highland, Mich.; a brother, Richard Parsons Jr. and Joe Casey of Norwalk, Ohio; and five grandchildren.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday at St. Paul of the Cross Catholic Church in Columbia City with Father Larry Kramer officiating. Burial will be at St. Catherine's Catholic Cemetery.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-9 p.m. Tuesday at DeMoney-Grimes Countryside Park Funeral Home in Columbia City and one hour prior to services Wednesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Center of Non Violence, 235 W. Creighton Ave., Fort Wayne.

Condolences may be sent online to www.demoney-grimes.com.

## Marcella Tracy

AUBURN — Marcella O. Tracy, 84, of Auburn, formerly of Fort Wayne and Big Lake, died Saturday, June 23, 2007 at her home.

She was born Feb. 7, 1923, in Illinois.

Surviving are her husband, Roy Tracy of Auburn; two sons and daughters-in-law, Terry and Jo Tracy of Auburn and Scott and Suzi Tracy of Roanoke; a daughter, Judy Summers of Fort Wayne; 11 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; a sister, Glenda Friendbacher of Bogota, Ill; and a sister-in-law, Fannie Scott of Olney, Ill.

Services will be Tuesday at 10 a.m. at Covington Memorial Funeral Home, 8408 Covington Road, Fort Wayne. Burial will be in Covington Memorial Gardens.

Calling will be today from 4-8 p.m. and Tuesday from 9-10 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Grace Christian Church or Heartland Hospice.

To sign a guest book online, visit www.covington-memorial.com.

## Frank Pickard

AUBURN — Frank Pickard, 85, of Auburn died Sunday, June 24, 2007, in Miller's Merry Manor nursing home at Garrett.

Mr. Pickard had owned and operated Frank's Garage in rural Auburn since 1954 and was contracted as the mechanic for Garrett-Keyser-Butler school buses for 40 years.

He was a U.S. Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, serving from Nov. 27, 1942 until Nov. 29, 1945.

Mr. Pickard was a member of Corunna Community Church, Garrett's American Legion Post 178 and Disabled American Veterans Chapter 43. He was a member of the ABC Bowling League in Auburn.

He was born April 4, 1922, in Roanoke to C. Frank Pickard Sr. and Onda (Markins) Pickard. His parents preceded him in death.

On Oct. 5, 1943, in Avilla, he married Bessie M. Cooley. She survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are two sons, the Rev. Richard Pickard and Marion F. Pickard, both of Garrett; a sister and brother-in-law, Pauline and Harry Cogan of Cedar, Mich.; five grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Calvin Pickard.

Services will be Wednesday at 2 p.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. Richard Pickard officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery of Garrett. A graveside military service will be conducted by American Legion Post 178.

Calling will be Wednesday from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. in the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family.

## Rhonda Ballentine

BUTLER — Rhonda Ballentine, 34, of Butler died Friday, June 22, 2007, at her home.

Mrs. Ballentine was a homemaker.

She was born Sept. 3, 1972, in Tennessee.

Surviving are her husband, Mark Ballentine of Butler; her mother, Carolynn Stallings of Butler; a son, Dalton Ballentine of Butler; two brothers and a sister-in-law, David and Cherie Mason of Grabill and Steve Robinson of Angola; and a sister, Loretta Mosley of Garrett.

She was preceded in death by her father, Danny "Woody" Stallings, who died in 2004.

A memorial service will be Saturday at 5 p.m. in the Butler United Methodist Church.

Memorials are to her son, Dalton Ballentine.

McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home of Auburn is handling arrangements.

## Vera Brown

LAKE OZARK, Mo. — Vera Marguerite Brown, 102, of Lake Ozark died Saturday, June 16, 2007, in Osage Beach, Mo.

Mrs. Brown was a member of the Evangelical United Church of Christ of Highland, Ill., and worked as a secretary for the City of Highland. She also taught piano. She loved to work with her hands in crafts, needlepoint, knitting and cross stitch.

She was born Aug. 14, 1904, in Auburn to Joseph Franklin Walter and Edith Maurer Walter.

She graduated from Auburn High School in 1922 and married Eugene W. Brown in Auburn in 1926.

Surviving are a son, David, of Lake Ozark, Mo.; a daughter, Sue Drain of Rolling Meadows, Ill.; three grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; a sister-in-law, Valetta Bloom Walter of Fort Wayne; five nephews, James Lindley and Richard Lindley, both of Wolcottville, Michael Walter of Auburn, Kenneth J. Walter of Fort Wayne and Timothy J. Walter of Sullivans Island, S.C.; a grandnephew, Kirk Schmidt of Fort Wayne; and two grandnieces, Toni R. Knox and Terri L. Platter, both of Auburn.

She was preceded in death by her parents and husband; three brothers, Dale, Carl and Kenneth; two sisters, Bertha Laug and Dorothy Lindley; two nieces, Sue Schmidt of Fort Wayne and Cynthia Traxler of Auburn; and a grandniece, Karen "Mitsi" Schmidt Bishop of Fort Wayne.

Graveside services were held Friday at Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn. The Rev. Matt Tosten of Trier Ridge Community Church of God of Fort Wayne officiated. Funeral arrangements were made by Hedges Funeral Home of Camdenton, Mo.

## Grace Surface

AUBURN — Grace L. Surface, 93, died Monday, June 25, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

She was born in Churubusco and was a homemaker.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Sharon and Phil Howard of Fort Wayne; a son, Rex Surface of Portland, Ore.; a daughter-in-law, Jeanette Surface of El Paso, Texas; four grandchildren and their spouses, Steven and Toni Surface, Cheryl and Bill Waugh, Ann and Jeff Suttle and Ariel Surface; four great-grandchildren; and two sisters and a brother-in-law, Pauline McBride of Churubusco and Blanche Kumfer Kurtz and her husband, Theron, of Fort Wayne.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Melvin I. Surface, in 1984; a son, Edgar Surface, in 2001 and a great-grandson, James Surface.

A private service will be Saturday at Lindenwood Cemetery in Fort Wayne.

Calling will be Friday from 4-8 p.m. at D.O. McComb & Sons Pine Valley Park Funeral Home, 1320 E. Dupont Road, Fort Wayne.

Memorials are to Matthew 25 Health & Dental Clinic.

## Dorothy Brown

GARRETT — Dorothy Brown, 65, of Garrett died Tuesday, June 26, 2007, at her home.

Mrs. Brown was a P.T.I. driver for Professional Transportation in Evansville.

She was born June 7, 1942, in Fort Wayne to George and Wynona (Stickfaden) Judson. They preceded her in death.

She married Robert L. Brown on Oct. 24, 1964, in Garrett. He died April 9, 2007.

Surviving are six daughters and sons-in-law, Sharon and Robert Brown of Corunna, Christina and Brian Washler of Butler, Mary and Martel Moreno of Waterloo, Regina and Jack Dean of Garrett, Lisa and Tobias Walter of Garrett and Renee and Jack Smurr of Garrett; a brother and sister-in-law, Kenny and Trudy Judson; a sister and brother-in-law, Georgetta and Lloyd Cable; 18 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a sister, Lucille Trushel.

Graveside services will be Saturday, July 7, at 2 p.m. in Circle Cemetery, Hudson.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, is handling arrangements.

## William Wellendorf

PRESCOTT, Ariz. — William G. "Bill" Wellendorf, 56, of Prescott, Ariz., died peacefully on June 17, 2007,

Mr. Wellendorf was raised in Butler, where he attended school. He graduated from Indiana University in 1977 and from Arizona State University, where he received his master's degree in geology in 1979. He was a registered geologist.

**Mr. Wellendorf**

As a a senior associate and primary geologist, he retired from Southwest Groundwater Consultants, where his focus areas were in surface mapping, remote sensing and environmental and geologic characteristics. He shared his expertise with many.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy, a past master of Aztlan Masonic Lodge No. 1 and member of American Legion Post 6.

Family members said they will miss his laughter, his compassion and enduring love of life, and he will be missed by all who knew him on a personal and business level.

He was born July 15, 1950, in Youngstown, Ohio, to Lester G "Bud" and Glydene Wellendorf.

Surviving are his wife, Colette, in Prescott, Ariz.; a sister and brother-in-law, Carol and Nelson Werkema, of Grand Rapids, Mich., and his nephews and their wives, Bret William and Julie Asper and Benjamin Lee and Chris Asper.

He was preceded in death by his mother and father and his first wife, Cathy Schulten.

A memorial service will be Saturday at 2 p.m. at the Highland American Legion Post No. 201, 2919 Bardstown Road, Louisville, Ky.

Memorials are to the Masonic Children's Foundation or the Shriners Children's Hospital.

## Ruth Sipe

BUTLER — Ruth A. Sipe, 69, of Butler died Wednesday, June 27, 2006, at her home with her family at her side.

Mrs. Sipe was a homemaker. Her family was her life. She attended the former Newville United Methodist Church and, more recently, Grace Point Church of the Nazarene in Fort Wayne.

She was born Sept. 4, 1937, in DeKalb County to Huber and Frances (Smith) Carr. They preceded her in death.

She married William Sipe on March 17, 1957, in Avilla and he survives.

Also surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Gary and Laurie Sipe of Leo and Chris and Mindi Sipe of Butler; two daughters and sons-in-law, Debbie and Karl Geesaman of Leesburg, Ala., and Diane and Randy Young of Butler; seven grandchildren and their spouses, Amber and Drew Wiard, Emi Sipe, Adam and Cameron Geesaman, Aric Geesaman, Allison Geesaman, Nate Young and Derek Young; four great-grandchildren, Bailee, Max and Delaney Wiard and Austin Geesaman; a brother and sister-in-law, Harold and Marilyn Carr of Auburn; and two sisters and brothers-in-law, Jane and Robert Biddle of Garrett and Jean and Wilbur Camp of St. Joe.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Jimmy Carr.

Services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. in Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Charles Sunberg officiating. Burial will be in Riverview Cemetery at Newville.

Calling will be Friday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. and Saturday from 10-11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Grace Point Church of the Nazarene or DeKalb Memorial Hospice.

## Dorothea Beigh

PERU — Dorothea D. "Dottie" Beigh, 81, of Peru died Thursday, June 28, 2007, at 12:30 a.m. at Forum At The Crossing Healthcare Center in Indianapolis.

Mrs. Beigh was raised in the Auburn area and attended Auburn High School.

She was a homemaker and a teacher's wife, whose life revolved around helping to raise her five children.

She loved to cook and enjoyed family gatherings. She devoted many hours to attending her children's school, sports and musical activities. During high school football and basketball season, she traveled with her husband to local sports events, keeping statistics for him as he described the games on WARU Radio. As her youngest child entered high school in the early 1970s, she worked at Ribordy Drugs in Peru.

She was born June 19, 1926, in Auburn to Clarence and Charlotte (Hull) Walker. They preceded her in death.

She married James E. Beigh on Jan. 20, 1945. He died April 22, 1987.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Michael and Debbie Beigh of Zionsville and Robert D. and Linda Beigh of Valparaiso; three daughters and two sons-in-law, Pamela and Bruce Silverstone of Trumbull, Conn., Vicki J. Peters of Indianapolis and Patti S. and Roger Smithand of Amboy; seven grandchildren, Shawn A. Peters of Indianapolis, Chad A. Peters of Carmel, Jodi Silverstone of Boston, Adam Silverstone of Trumbull, Conn., Geoffrey S. Smith of Plymouth and Matthew J. Beigh and Sarah Beigh of Valparaiso; a sister, Patricia McCorkle of Auburn; and great-aunts, nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

She was preceded in death by three brothers, a sister and a niece.

Services will be Monday at 11 a.m. at Mount Hope Chapel in Peru, with Pastor J. Robert Clark officiating. Burial will be in Mount Hope Cemetery at Peru.

Memorials are to St. Vincent Hospice and may be made through the Flowers-Leedy Funeral Home, 105 West Third St., Peru, IN 46970.

## Marjorie Schrock

LEO — Marjorie Mae Schrock, 89, of Leo died Thursday morning, June 28, 2007, at Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Schrock was a homemaker and served as a foster mother for 26 babies. She was a member of the North Leo Mennonite Church.

Mrs. Schrock

She was born Jan. 7, 1918, in Archbold, Ohio, to Samuel C. and Amanda (King) Beck. They preceded her in death.

She married Clayton Schrock on Oct. 16, 1943, in Topeka. He survives in Leo.

Also surviving are a son, Rick S. Schrock of Maryville, Tenn.; two daughters and sons-in-law, Sharon J. and Rick Meyers of Fort Wayne and Shirley J. and Fred Johnson of St. Joe; 10 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; and a sister and brother-in-law, Evelyn and Bob Edwards of Leo.

She was preceded in death by four brothers, Elon, Orvil, Virgil and Everett Beck, and two sisters, Berneda Nofzinger and Glada Richards.

Services will be Monday at 10 a.m. in North Leo Mennonite Church. Burial will be in Leo Memorial Park Cemetery.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-8 p.m. at the church fellowship hall.

Memorials are to the Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home, 5910 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46814.

Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home, 6992 S.R. 1, Spencerville, is in charge of arrangements.

The EVENING STAR
JULY 1 2007 Auburn, Indiana

# A 'Tater' who hated dirt

## Custodian kept Avilla School squeaky-clean

BY DAVE KURTZ
dkurtz@kpcnews.net

AVILLA — For decades, the hallways and classrooms at the Avilla School sparkled because Frank LeRoy "Tater" Anderson wouldn't have it any other way.

"He wanted a place to be clean after he left the area — and it was," said Gene Cogan, who was a student, teacher and principal at the school during Mr. Anderson's years as head custodian.

Mr. Anderson died at the age of 94 on May 27, 2007, at Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla.

He began caring for the Avilla School in the early 1930s, only a few years after graduating from LaOtto High School. Cogan was a fifth-grader at the time, and remembers how Anderson would tap on his classroom door to signal that it was time for recess.

When Cogan returned to the school as a teacher and later as a principal, he appreciated Anderson for being "very, very conscientious about his work."

In Cogan's long career in education, he said, Anderson ranked as one of the two best custodians he knew.

In Anderson's view, "It was his school," said Wendell Beck of Avilla, a former teacher at Avilla School.

"He wasn't bashful about getting after kids. He was very sincere about his job," Beck said.

Beck remembers how Anderson took pride in the school's new gymnasium bleachers after they were installed in 1957.

"I'd see him jack them up and scrape the gum off the casters," Beck said.

"On rainy days, he would stand at the door and tell the kids to wipe their feet off" as they entered the school, said the Rev. Dr. Leonard King, who spoke at Anderson's funeral.

"He would stay overnight to make sure the furnaces kept going on winter nights. He was very dedicated to his work, but also very dedicated to his family and church. He kept them in balance," King said.

King serves as pastor at Calvary United Methodist Church in Avilla, where Anderson demonstrated the same kind of devotion to detail that made him a legend at school.

"He was the type of person, especially in the maintenance of the building, if he saw something that needed to be done, he did it," King said. "He was a person who wanted everything clean, presentable."

Anderson served on the board of trustees, building committee, and many other committees at the church, King said. He rarely missed a Sunday service.

Anderson could be stern about keeping the school and church tidy, but he also displayed a good sense of humor, King said.

"He was a very likable guy. He tried to be gruff, but we all knew that he had a soft heart," said Nancy Fischer, who graduated from Avilla High School in 1965 and today serves as the town's clerk-treasurer.

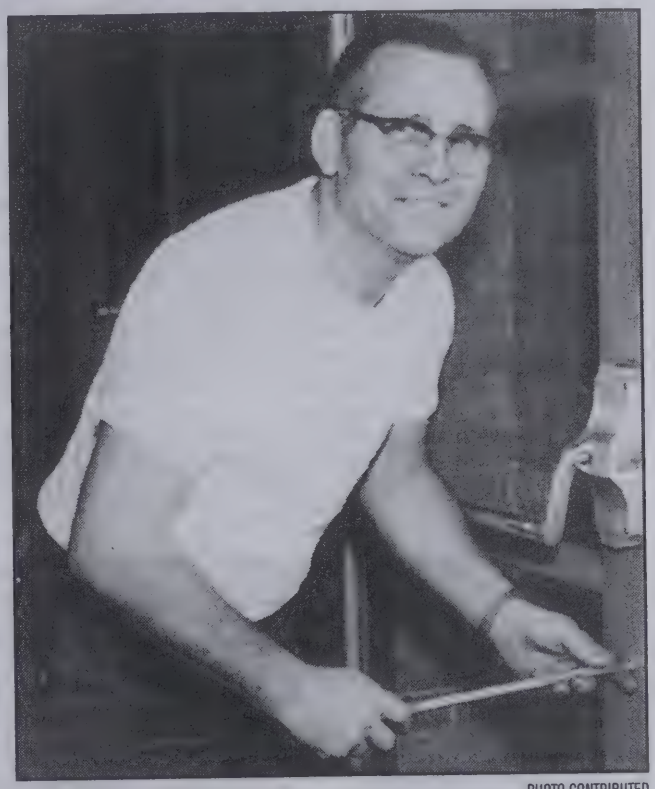


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Frank LeRoy "Tater" Anderson locks the doors to Avilla School. Anderson kept the hallways of the Avilla School spotless for generations of students.**

"He was always there to help you out when you needed it at school. He loved the kids," Fischer recalled.

"He was a good man. If they needed something, he'd take care of them," Beck said.

Avilla rewarded Anderson's faithfulness by honoring him as the town's citzen of the year in 1978.

Anderson's loyal nature extended to his marriage of 71 years. His wife, Catherine, died June 20, only 24 days after her husband.

"It was just a relationship that was very, very compatible. Each one of them would support each other," King said of the couple. "You would ask her, 'What makes your marriage last so long?' and she would say, 'He listens to me.'"

King said Mrs. Anderson was "very dedicated to the church. She was just like Roy."

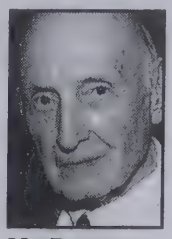
Though King knew Mr. Anderson as "Roy," nearly everyone else called him "Tater."

While his acquaintances can't explain the source of Anderson's fastidious nature, King does know the story behind his nickname.

"Catherine told me that one day, a long time ago when he was in elementary school, he picked up a potato and was throwing it around," King said, "and another classmate from then on called him 'Tater.'"

## John Brennan

GARRETT — John W. Brennan, 87, of Garrett died Sunday, July 1, 2007, at 12:30 a.m. at Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla, where he had been a resident since March 2007.


Mr. Brennan

Mr. Brennan was an engineer on the B&O Railroad for 40 years, retiring in 1984. He was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Garrett and the Garrett post of the American Legion. He volunteered his services with Meals on Wheels and the Garrett Recycling Center.

He attended St. Joseph College in Rensselaer from 1939-1940 and graduated from Indiana University in 1943 with a bachelor of science degree in public business administration. He was a U.S. Army veteran, serving in the Panama Canal zone.

Mr. Brennan was born Oct. 5, 1919, in Garrett to Peter R. and Agnes B. (Lauby) Brennan. They preceded him in death.

On Nov. 26, 1948, in Auburn, he married Marjorie A. Kokenge. She died Nov. 29, 2000.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Carol Sue and Ken Reed of Racine, Wis.; three sons and daughters-in-law, David E. and Darlah Brennan of Auburn, John T. and Teresa Brennan of Springfield, Ohio, and Timothy R. and Darlene Brennan of Roswell, Ga.; a brother, Bernard R. Brennan of Garrett; a sister, Jeanne Meier of Winona, Minn.; six grandchildren; and a stepgrandson.

He was preceded in death by three sisters, Gertrude Dalton, Margaret Luttman and Mary Higgins.

Services will be Thursday at 11 a.m. in St. Joseph Catholic Church of Garrett with Father Ted Uwakwe officiating. Burial will be in Catholic Cemetery at Auburn, with graveside military services by the Garrett posts of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Calling will be Wednesday from 4-7 p.m. in Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C R. 56, Garrett, and Thursday from 10-11 a.m. at the church. A rosary service will begin at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to St. Joseph Catholic Church or St. Joseph Catholic School.

Condolences may be sent and an online register book may be signed at www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

## Robert Blackburn

BUTLER — Robert E. "Blackie" Blackburn, 77, of Butler died Saturday, June 30, 2007, at his home, surrounded by his family.

Mr. Blackburn retired from the U.S. Army after 20 years of service, having served in the Korean conflict. He also was a truck driver, retired from Levy Co. and Cadillac Asphalt and Pavement.

He was born Feb. 16, 1930, in Gays, Ill., to Guy and Mildred (Wetherell) Blackburn.

He married Linday Smyth on May 6, 1959, in Butler. She survives in Butler.

Also surviving are three sons and two daughters-in-law, Guy Blackburn of Groton, Conn., Sam and Susan Blackburn of Edgerton, Ohio, and Robert L. and Linda Blackburn of Terre Haute; two grandchildren, Megan and Tyler Perry of Edgerton, Ohio; and a brother, Richard Blackburn of Gays, Ill.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a son, Eugene Robert.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Memorials are to the DeKalb Cancer Society.

H.E. Johnson & Son Funeral Home of Butler is handling arrangements.

## Joseph Burnett Jr.

BUTLER — Joseph A. Burnett Jr., 69, died Sunday, July 1, 2007, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Burnett Jr.

Mr. Burnett worked for the City of Butler Street Department for 30 years. He served in the U.S. Navy on the USS Canberra.

He was a member of the Butler Eagles, Butler American Legion Post 202 and its color guard and was a huge NASCAR fan. He was a former member of the Butler Fire Department, a former Scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop No. 171 and a former coach in the Butler Youth League.

He was born June 14, 1938, in Corinth, N.Y., to Joseph and Mary (Faber) Burnett.

He married Judith Burkmire on June 8, 1962, in Butler, and she survives.

Also surviving are one son and daughter-in-law, Tony Joe and Lauri Burnett of Indianapolis; one daughter, Tina Marie Wallar of Elkhart; five grandchildren, Rebecca and Jonathon Burnett, Brandon and Alex Wallar and Chelsi Altman; and three sisters and two brothers-in-law, Mary and Henry Conlin of Teaticket, Mass., Evelyn and Jack Kerr of Thornton, Colo. and Kathy Mayer of Auburn, Neb.

He was preceded in death by his parents; three brothers, Robert, Norman and Raymond; and two sisters, Emma Burnett and Lynn McNeal.

Services will be Wednesday, July 4, at 10 a.m. in H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, 212 N. Broadway, Butler, with Pastor Paul Patton officiating. Burial will be in Butler Cemetery with military honors.

Calling will be today from 3-8 p.m. in the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Butler Youth League Baseball Building Fund.

To view a video tribute and leave condolences, visit www.hejohnsonfh.com.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** *is being reprinted to correct an error in information submitted to the newspaper.*

## Robert Blackburn

BUTLER — Robert E. "Blackie" Blackburn, 77, of Butler died Saturday at his home, surrounded by his family.

Mr. Blackburn retired from the U.S. army after 20 years of service, having served in the Korean conflict. He also was a truck driver, retired from Levy Co. and Cadillac Asphalt and Pavement.

He was born Feb. ,16, 1930, in Gays, Ill., to Guy and Mildred (Wetherell) Blackburn.

He married Linda Smyth on May 6, 1959, in Butler. She survives in Butler.

Also surviving are three sons and two daughters-in-law, Guy Blackburn of Groton, Conn., Sam and Susan Blackburn of Edgerton, Ohio, and Robert L. and Linda Blackburn of Terre Haute; two grandchildren, Megan and Tyler Perry of Edgerton, Ohio; and a brother, Richard Blackburn of Gays, Ill.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a son, Eugene Robert.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Memorials are to the DeKalb Cancer Society.

H.E. Johnson & Son Funeral Home of Butler is handling arrangements.

## William Hartman

COLDWATER, Mich. — William F. Hartman, 82, died Monday, July 2, 2007, at Community Health Center of Branch County in Coldwater, Mich.

Mr. Hartman worked at Weatherhead in Angola for 30 years. He was a World War II veteran, serving in the U.S. Navy. He was a former member of Pleasant Chapel Church of the Brethren in rural Ashley and a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars post in Coldwater.

He was born March 29, 1925, in DeKalb County to Raymond and Wanda (Tuttle) Hartman. They preceded him in death.

He married Mary Teegardin on Oct. 3, 1953, in the Chapel in the Garden in Angola. She survives.

Also surviving are two daughters, Gloria Jean Preston of LaGrange and Cindy Wheeler of Quincy, Mich.; nine grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; a sister, Marjorie Reinoehl of Angola; and a brother, Maynard "Mike" Hartman of Angola.

He was preceded in death by a son, Gary Hartman; a sister, Delores Fee; and a grandson, Tom Strawser.

Services will be Thursday at 11 a.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery in rural Corunna.

Calling will be Wednesday from 2-5 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Branch County Community Health Center.

## Shirley Wallace

KENDALLVILLE — Shirley J. Wallace, 77, of Kendallville died Tuesday, July 3, 2007, at her home.

Mrs. Wallace

Mrs. Wallace served as a registered nurse from 1950 until she retired in 1996. She was employed with McCray Memorial Hospital, Lutheran Homes in Kendallville and Liberty Mutual Insurance Co.

She graduated from Wapakoneta High School in 1947 and graduated from nursing school in 1950 at Miami Valley Hospital in Dayton, Ohio. She also received a bachelor's degree in religious education from Baptist Bible College in Johnson City, N.Y., in 1955.

She was a member of First Christian Church in Kendallville where she was actively involved with the AWANA program, the church choir and worship team, and weekly Bible study.

Mrs. Wallace also was a member of Smiles Unlimited and involved in clown ministry as "Cheerful" the clown. Mrs. Wallace was also a committee member for Child Evangelism Fellowship in Auburn.

She was born in St. John's, Ohio, on Aug. 20, 1929, to Claude C. and Ilo (Gary) Bailey. She married Keith J. Wallace on Nov. 19, 1955, in Dayton, Ohio, and he preceded her death Oct. 8, 1999.

Surviving are two daughters and a son-in-law, Cynthia and Greg Bristol of Mansfield, Texas, and Sheryl Wallace of Pierceton; a brother, Robert Bailey of Grand Rapids, Ohio; a sister, Iris Bailey of Chapel Hill, N.C.; and four grandsons, Troy, Stephen and Craig Bristol, all from Mansfield, Texas, and Jared Bristol with the U.S. Army, currently serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

She was also preceded in death by three brothers and three sisters.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at First Christian Church in Kendallville. The Rev. Dr. Thomas R. Clothier and Pastor Robert Farmer will officiate. Burial will be in Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville. Pallbearers will be her grandsons, Troy, Stephen and Craig, and her nephews, Dean and Russell Blackstone.

Calling will be from 4-8 p.m. Friday at Hite Funeral Home, 403 S. Main St., Kendallville.

Memorials are to Child Evangelism Fellowship in Auburn or to the AWANA Program at First Christian Church in Kendallville.

Send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com

## Juanita Harrison

BUTLER — Juanita M. Harrison, 58, of Butler died Tuesday, July 3, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

A homemaker, she was born July 17, 1948, in Hammond to Claude and Gladys (Call) Evans. They preceded her in death.

Surviving are a son, Ben Harrison of Waterloo, and his fiancee, Vickie; three daughters and sons-in-law, Dawn and Carson Mercer of Butler, Georgia and Heath Rocky of Cromwell and Trudy and Chris Hopkins of Butler; 14 grandchildren; and a brother, William Polk of Butler.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Richard Gfeller; two brothers, Kermitt Call and Harold Evans; and a granddaughter, Kerri Jade Hopkins.

A memorial service will be Saturday at 1 p.m. at the Independent Full Gospel Church in Ashley. The Rev. Sam Weimer will officiate. Burial will be in Butler Cemetery.

There will be no calling.

Memorials are to the family in care of Ben Harrison, 535 S. Best St., Waterloo, IN 46793.

Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, is handling arrangements.

The EVENING STAR
JULY 6 2007 Auburn, Indiana

## Doris Cole

AUBURN — Doris Mae Cole, 87, of Panama City Beach, Fla., and formerly of Auburn died Wednesday, July 4, 2007, at her daughter's summer home at Royer Lake, near LaGrange.

Mrs. Cole was the co-owner of The Brown House drive-in restaurant in Auburn from 1950 to 1978.

She was born Dec. 14, 1919, in Auburn to Clarence and Kate (Zerns) Freeman. They preceded her in death.

She married Claude Cole in 1941. He died in 1961.

Surviving are two daughters and a son-in-law, Claudia and James Morr of Panama City Beach, Fla., and Susan Cole of Indianapolis; a son and daughter-in-law, David and Sheila Cole of Auburn; a brother, Keith Freeman of Fort Wayne; eight grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren and six great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by four brothers and two sisters.

Private family services will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn, at a later date. There will be no calling.

Memorials are to Parkview Noble County Hospice.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, is handling arrangements.

## Theodore Magnuson

SUN LAKES, Ariz. — Theodore E. "Ted" Magnuson, Jr., 75, of Sun Lakes, Ariz., died Friday, July 6, 2007, in Madison, Wis.

Mr. Magnuson worked for Central Soya for 38 years and served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. He was a member of Risen Savior Lutheran Church in Chandler, Ariz.

He was an avid sportsman, racquetball, softball and tennis player. He was known as a loving and gentle husband, father and grandfather and had a great sense of humor.

He was born Aug. 6, 1931, in Kendallville to Theodore and Marjorie (Smith) Magnuson Sr. They preceded him in death.

He married Patsy Thomas on Dec. 29, 1956, in Auburn. She survives.

Also surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Chrisanne and Bruce Noble of Irvine, Calif., and Cynthia and James Hyne of Middleton, Wis.; a son and daughter-in-law, Michael and Susan Magnuson of Lake Forest, Calif.; five grandchildren: Ashley and Robert Hyne, Breanna Betourne and Nicole and Craig Magnuson; and a brother and sister-in-law, David and Jeanne Magnuson.

He was preceded in death by a son, Mark Magnuson.

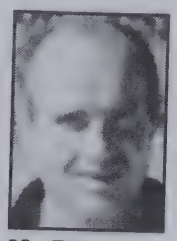
A memorial service will be held at a later date in Chandler, Ariz.

Memorials are to the Risen Savior Lutheran Church in Chandler.

Gunderson West Funeral & Cremation Centers, 7435 University Ave., Middleton, Wis., is handling arrangements.

## Chuck Ringler

ANGOLA — Chuck Ringler, 41, of Angola died Wednesday, July 4, 2007, in Angola.


Mr. Ringler

He was a concrete mason and formerly was a concrete mason with his father's business, Ringler Masonry.

Mr. Ringler enjoyed fishing, deer hunting, mushroom hunting and nature. He also enjoyed golf, and was a member of the Rio Bar Golf Club in Hamilton.

He lived most of his life in the Steuben County area, and was an Angola High School graduate.

On March 7, 1966, in Sturgis, Mich., he was born to Wayne and Bonnie (Halferty) Ringler. His father survives.

Also surviving are a daughter, Karil Lee of Angola; two sisters, Rebah Carrick of Rotunda West, Fla., and Linda Baker of Helmer; two brothers, Mike Ringler of Coldwater, Mich., and Randy Ringler of Springfield, Ore.; a stepsister, Dee Sattison of Carmel; and three stepbrothers, Mike Golliff of Angola, Bruce Golliff of Michigan City, and Paul Golliff of Auburn.

His mother preceded him in death in 1997.

Celebration of life services will be Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m. at Beams Funeral Home, Fremont. A private family burial will be held at a later date.

There is no calling.

Memorials are to the Shriners Hospital for Children, 407 W. Berry St., Fort Wayne IN 46802.

Condolences may be sent online to www.beamsfuneralhome.com.

## Dorothy Melchi

ANGOLA — Dorothy K. Melchi, 90, of Angola died Wednesday, July 4, 2007, in Lakeland Nursing Center, Angola.

She was a retired inspector at Dana-Weatherhead in Angola, and a Fremont High School graduate. She enjoyed reading, sewing and needlepoint, her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

On Aug. 13, 1916, she was born to Harry and Ruth (Faudree) Hull in Auburn. She married Woodrow W. Melchi, who preceded her in death on May 1, 1998.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, James and Donna Melchi of Angola; three grandchildren, James Melchi Jr., Dana Dewey and Dena Williams; and two great-grandchildren, Andrew Snowden and Benjamin Steele.

A private family service will be held. Burial will be in Greenlawn Cemetery, Orland.

There is no calling.

Memorials are the Lakeland Nursing Center, Angola.

Condolences may be sent online to www.beamsfuneralhome.com.

Beams Funeral Home in Fremont is in charge of arrangements.

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## Jarrod Moran Jr.

AUBURN — Infant Jarrod Michael Moran Jr. died following a premature birth on Thursday, July 5, 2007.

He was born Wednesday, July 4, 2007, at Dupont North Hospital in Fort Wayne.

He is survived by his parents, Jarrod Michael Moran and Erin Avery Sack, both of Auburn; his 4-year-old sister Jasmine Moran of Auburn; his 11-month-old brother Austin Sack of Auburn; paternal grandparents, Michael and Debbie Moran of Kendallville; maternal grandparents, Teresa and Jay Trammel of Fort Wayne and William Sack of Fort Wayne; and paternal great-grandparents, Joyce Moran of Noblesville and Garl and Janet Winters of Lebanon, Ind.

Graveside services will be Tuesday at 10 a.m. at Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville with the Rev. Dr. Thomas Clothier officiating.

Arrangements are by Hite Funeral Home, 403 S. Main St., Kendallville.

Send condolences to Jarrod's parents at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

## Chuck Ringler

ANGOLA — Chuck Ringler, 41, of Angola died Wednesday, July 4, 2007, in Angola.

He formerly was a concrete mason with his father's business, Ringler Masonry.

Mr. Ringler enjoyed fishing, deer hunting, mushroom hunting and nature. He also enjoyed golf, and was a member of the Rio Bar Golf Club in Hamilton.

Mr. Ringler

He lived most of his life in the Steuben County area, and was an Angola High School graduate.

On March 7, 1966, in Sturgis, Mich., he was born to Wayne and Bonnie (Halferty) Ringler. His father survives.

Also surviving are a daughter, Karli Lee of Angola; two sisters, Rebah Carrick of Rotunda West, Fla., and Linda Baker of Helmer; two brothers, Mike Ringler of Coldwater, Mich., and Randy Ringler of Springfield, Ore.; a stepsister, Dee Sattison of Carmel; and three stepbrothers, Mike Golliff of Angola, Bruce Golliff of Michigan City, and Paul Golliff of Auburn.

His mother preceded him in death in 1997.

A private family burial will be held at a later date.

A celebration of his life with calling will be from 2-4 p.m. today at Beams Funeral Home in Fremont.

Memorials are to the Shriners Hospital for Children, 407 W. Berry St., Fort Wayne IN 46802.

Condolences may be sent

occupy her time.

The Clay City woman had been a farm wife for almost 50 years.

## Craig Ball

AVILLA — Craig E. Ball, 47, of Avilla, died Thursday, July 5, 2007, at 8:43 p.m. at Indiana University Medical Center in Indianapolis. He had been ill since March with a rare case of lymphoma.

Mr. Ball worked at Magnavox (now Raytheon) in Fort Wayne for 18 years and then became a stay-at-home dad.

He had earned a degree from Ivy Tech and did volunteer work for Miller's Merry Manor Nursing Home in Garrett with the marketing and activity departments. He loved to read and learn new things. He also loved to build models of comic books and action heroes and liked to rebuild muscle cars.

He was born in Kendallville on Jan. 13, 1960, to Burnell Ball and Ruth (Striggle) Ball.

He married Connie Rhodes on Aug. 31, 1985, at the Calvary United Methodist Church in Avilla. She survives.

He is also survived by his parents, Burnell Ball of Syracuse and Ruth Ball of LaOtto; three sons, Lucas, Cory and Kyle Ball; and two sisters and brothers-in-law, Sandra and Ron Marshall of Kendallville and Lorna and Gene Schlotterback of Garrett.

Services will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. at Brazzell Funeral Home in Avilla, with the Rev. David Mix officiating. Burial will be in Swan Cemetery in LaOtto.

Calling will be from 4-8 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

## Diana Treesh

LAGRANGE — Diana Rosemary Treesh, 77, of Blackman Lake, Wolcottville, and formerly of Butler, died Friday, July 6, 2007, at 10:21 a.m. at Parkview LaGrange Hospital in LaGrange after a lengthy illness.

Mrs. Treesh had worked at Stanadyne in Garrett.

She was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary in Butler and the Eagles Lodge in Kendallville.

Mrs. Treesh

She was born Aug. 17, 1929, in Warmister Wilts, England, to Charles and Rosemary Monk. She came to the U.S. from England in 1957 and settled in Butler. She had lived at Blackman Lake since 1987.

She married Richard Treesh in Auburn on July 20, 1978. He died Jan. 30, 1990.

Surviving are three daughters, Gail Lash of Venice, Fla., Kim Tomlinson of Lakeland, Fla., and Lynda Hart of Hicksville, Ohio; eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by her parents and a brother.

Services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. at Young Family Funeral Home in Wolcottville, with the Rev. Carldean Merrifield officiating. Burial will in Butler Cemetery in Butler.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Heart Association.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.youngfamilyfuneralhome.com

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Jeff Crooks, Dave Wappes, Martha Crooks, Ruth Wappes, Thelma Beer, the late Roman Beer, Sarah Lane, Jim Lane, Portia Beer and Karl Beer gather for a family event. Roman Beer, who passed away June 14, was very family oriented.**

# Former mayor helped build parks

**BY MICHAEL MARTURELLO**
mikem@kpcnews.net

ANGOLA — Angola's parks system is flourishing today, perhaps in large part due to the efforts of the late Mayor Roman D. Beer.

It was during the 1970s that Beer, who died on June 14, pushed for an expansion of the city's park system, particularly Commons Park. He also was one of the persons responsible for the creation of the Angola Parks Board.

Old barracks used first during World War II and then as married student housing in post-World War II were slated to be razed. There was the possibility of tract housing taking over the land, but Mayor Beer pushed for an expansion of the city's parks system.

"He thought city parks were so important, a place for families to go," said Ruth Wappes, Beer's daughter.

In time, Commons would become Angola's largest park, with an 80-acre expansion to the east that includes a pedestrian trail, more ballfields, a timber frame pavilion and a huge, community-built playground called Friendship Park.

"He was very happy when they built that playground," said Thelma Beer, Mayor Beer's wife of 57 years.

Beer served as mayor of Angola from 1976 to 1983, and on the city council from 1967 to 1973. He owned Punctual Printing, and previously worked at the Steuben Printing Co. He and Thelma also owned the Dairy Queen on North Wayne Street. Mr. Beer was a World War II Navy veteran.

He was a member of St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, Angola American Legion Post No. 81, VFW Post No. 7205, Angola Moose Lodge No. 1568, Angola Elks Lodge No. 2398 and the Angola Lions Club.

Obviously Mayor Beer was very social, and as Wappes said, he loved being around people. But the people who were most important to him were members of his family, she said.

"He had a very strong family. That was the kind of foundation that led him in his family life and his professional life," Wappes said. "His family was first and foremost with him."

She said Mayor Beer made certain he would spend quality time with all of his children, both individually and in groups. She recalled her father taking each of the children to Notre Dame football games where he held season tickets. He had two tickets so he would take Wappes, Sarah Lane, Martha Crooks and Dr. Karl Beer individually to the games.

She also recalled her father taking her to see the Beatles in Soldier Field in Chicago, a trip she will never forget.

Crooks said family always came first with her father.

"No matter what was going on, if we needed him during the day he would come help, even if it meant working late hours to catch up," she said. "Love of family was always important to him."

Mayor Beer made sure he was home for dinner at 6 p.m., even when he was running two businesses.

"He was a very hard worker," Wappes said, "but he was always home at six o'clock for dinner. That was important. It was family time."

He took to City Hall the values he practiced at home.

"He always tried to be fair, at home and as mayor," Wappes said.

Mayor Beer's fondness for the city's parks and their continued development was honored a few years back when the Angola Parks and Recreation Department board decided to dedicate the bandstand stage to him. It was done on the same day he served as grand marshal to the Angola Fourth of July parade. The dedication of the stage was a complete surprise.

"He was just flabbergasted when they named the stage for him," Wappes said. "He just couldn't believe it. He was so proud."

"He was proud of Angola and was happy to be part of it," Thelma said. "He dearly loved Angola."

During the 1970s and early 1980s, when communities were struggling with the need to grow while going through a recession, Beer tried to balance the city's need to expand with trying to attract quality businesses.

"He wanted Angola to be progressive in the right way," Thelma said.

In his later years, Beer was taken care of by Crooks. Regardless of his age or condition, Crooks said he kept his spirits up.

"He always had a good, positive attitude," she said. "He loved life, and loved living here."

Mayor Beer was honored with salutes in full dress colors during his funeral by members of the Angola Police and Fire departments, as well as the color guard from American Legion Post No. 31.

"I was so pleased with the way the city honored him," Thelma said. "I just loved him dearly and miss him so much."

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## Neal Trout Jr.

FORT WAYNE — Neal V. Trout Jr., 71, of Fort Wayne died Tuesday, July 3, 2007, at Coventry Meadows in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Trout was a truck driver. He was born Sept. 26, 1935, in Muncie to Neal V. Trout Sr. and Bessie A. Valentine. They preceded him in death.

His wife, Norita Marie Brown Trout, died Feb. 1, 1999.

Surviving are a daughter, Shelly Screen of Florida; a son, Todd Trout of Ohio; a sister, Glenna Palmer of Florida; a brother, Phillip Trout of Georgia; and two grandchildren.

A memorial service will be Saturday at 11 a.m. at First Missionary Church, 701 W. Rudisill Blvd., Fort Wayne.

Calling will be Saturday from 10-11 a.m. at the church.

Feller and Clark Funeral Home of Auburn is handling arrangements.

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## Bryan Busche

ST. JOE — Bryan L. "S.L.O.B." Busche, 42, of St. Joe died Saturday, July 7, 2007, at 5:42 a.m. in DeKalb Memorial Hospital at Auburn.

Mr. Busche was a devoted Teamsters Union truck driver and a member of OOIDA.

He was born Sept. 15, 1964, in Fort Wayne.

Surviving are his wife, Delinda S.; a daughter and son-in-law, Amanda R. and John Woolums of Camp Pendleton, Calif.; a son, Dustin W. Busche of St. Joe; a grandson, Charlie Woolums; his mother, Sondra Busche of Fort Wayne; a sister, Kimberly S. Busche of Fort Wayne; a half sister, Teresa Springer of Spencerville; and a half brother, Mark William Busche of Fort Wayne.

He was preceded in death by his father, William Busche.

Services will be Thursday at 1 p.m. in Hockemeyer & Miller Funeral Home, 6131 St. Joe Road, Fort Wayne. Pastor Ron Collins will officiate. Burial will be in St. Peter's Lutheran Cemetery.

Calling will be Wednesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

## Elky Andrews

KOKOMO — Elky Andrews, 81, died Thursday, July 5, 2007, at Windsor Estates Health & Rehab Facility in Kokomo.

Mr. Andrews

Mr. Andrews was born in Newton, Ala. He was a mechanic with Lincoln-Mercury for many years.

Surviving are a son, David Andrews of Angola; three daughters, Debby King of Kokomo, Karen S. Prosser of Leo and Joann Andrews Thompson of Garrett; five brothers, Fred Kenneth, Steve and Doug Andrews, all of Fort Wayne, Charles Alvin Andrews of Detroit and Rodney Andrews of Arizona; three sisters, Betty Andrews of Fort Wayne, Sarah Thomas of Ohio and Alice Barksdale of Fort Wayne; nine grandchildren, Rochelle Hemingway, Yolanda King, Athera Beaty, Max King, Tramel Prosser, Tyson Prosser, Danielle Prosser, Tavis Thompson and Aaron Thompson; and four great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Rosemary Andrews.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at D.O. McComb & Sons Pine Valley Park Funeral Home, 1320 E. Dupont Road, Fort Wayne, with calling from 10-11 a.m.

Burial will be in Highland Park Cemetery at Fort Wayne with a military graveside service by American Legion Post 178 of Garrett.

## Lawrence Burnham

AUBURN — Lawrence F. Burnham, 81, of Auburn died Monday, July 9, 2007, at Miller's Merry Manor nursing home in Garrett.

Mr. Burnham was a contract engineer with many companies, retiring in 1998. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1943-1946.

He was a life member of the Handyman Club. His hobbies were photography, woodworking and fishing.

He was born June 8, 1926, in Dowagiac, Mich.

Surviving are his wife, Charlotte Burnham of Auburn; a son, Rick Burnham of Aiken, S.C.; two brothers, Jim Burnham of Elmhurst, Ill., and John Burnham; and two grandsons, Sean Camp and Adam Camp, both of Auburn.

He ws preceded in death by a daughter, Lorrie Camp, and a sister, Joan Carrington.

There will be no services or calling. McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, is handling arrangements.

## Glen Culbertson

AUBURN — A graveside service for Glen Albert Culbertson will be Friday at 11 a.m. in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Mr. Culbertson, 91, of Okeechobee, Fla., died Monday, Dec. 11, 2006, at Raulerson Hospital.

Born Nov. 12, 1915, in Auburn, he had lived in Okeechobee for the past 11 years.

He enjoyed fishing and bowling. He was a lifetime member of the Moose and Elks lodges and was a member of the Eagles.

Surviving are his wife of 10 years, Rosie Culbertson; two stepsons, Mark Cook of Auburn and John P. Cook and his wife, Kathy, of Greenwood; two stepdaughters, Sarah K. Cook of Auburn and Judy L. Cook of Columbus, Ohio; and three grandchildren, Mark Heller, Debra Eberhard and Diana Dunkel.

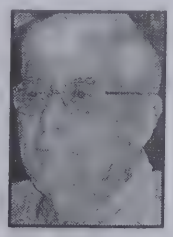
He was preceded in death by a daughter, Marsha Heller.

Memorials are to Good Shepherd Hospice of Highlands County, P.O. Box 1881, Sebring, FL 33871-1884.

Feller and Clark Funeral Home of Auburn is handling arrangements for Friday's service.

## Lloyd Mertz

ASHLEY — Lloyd W. Mertz, 93, of Ashley died Tuesday, July 10, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.


Mr. Mertz

Mr. Mertz was a lifetime farmer in Fairfield Township. He was a member of Zion Lutheran Church in rural Corunna, the Lutheran Laymen's League and the DeKalb County Farm Bureau. He was active in the DeKalb County Historical Society.

He was born Sept. 3, 1913, in DeKalb County to Edward J. and Lillian (Kammerer) Mertz.

He married Helen P. (Anderson) Mertz on Jan. 24, 1937, at the Zion Lutheran Church. She survives.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Dale L. and Lula Mertz of Berne; a daughter and son-in-law, Harriet M. and Richard Redman of Appleton, Wis.; two brothers and one sister-in-law, Ralph and Dottie Mertz of Knoxville, Tenn., and Robert Mertz of Kendallville; five grandchildren and their spouses, Mark and Cathy Mertz, Jana and Tyler Braun, Kent and Sarah Mertz, Christiana Redman and Phillip Redman; and three great-grandchildren, Lauren Mertz, John Mertz, and Kyle Mertz.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one sister-in-law, Lucille Mertz; one brother and one sister.

Services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. in Zion Lutheran Church in rural Corunna. Pastor Timothy Puls will officiate. Burial will be in Zion Lutheran Cemetery.

Calling will be Friday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1890 S. Center St., Auburn, and Saturday from 10-11 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to Zion Lutheran Church or the DeKalb County Historical Society.

## Jack Mavis

AUBURN — Jack Mavis, 86, of Auburn died Tuesday, July 10, 2007, at his summer home on Lake George near Fremont.

Mr. Mavis was the owner and operator of Fetzer's Bakery in Auburn and Angola for 26 years. He retired in 1987.

He was born July 29, 1920, in Edgerton, Ohio, to Alverda Clayton and Gertie (Fisher) Mavis.

He married Julia Ann (Fetzer) Mavis on June 27, 1943, in Hicksville, Ohio. She survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Jackie and Bill Cassady of Carrollton, Texas; two sons and one daughter-in-law, Jim Mavis of Carrollton, Texas, and Fred and Vicky Mavis of Auburn; four grandchildren, Bryan Runion, Brett Cassady, Kyle Mavis and Camille Mavis; two great-grandchildren, Jordan Runion and Jayden Mavis; one brother, Karl Mavis of Edgerton, Ohio; and one sister, Joan Sites of Virginia.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one grandson, William Cassady.

Private family services will be at a later date. There will be no calling.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home of Auburn is handling arrangements.

## Mildred Rottger

AUBURN — Mildred J. Rottger, 82, of Auburn died Tuesday, July 10, 2007, at her home.

Mrs. Rottger worked as a die cast operator at Hamilton Standard for 20 years, retiring in 1987. She was a member of the Auburn Church of the Nazarene.

She was born Dec. 24, 1924, in LaGrange County to Norven F. and Maude Irene (Gable) Ely. They preceded her in death.

She married Franklin Edward Rottger on June 17, 1944, in Garrett. He died April 20, 2004.

Surviving are two sons and one daughter-in-law, Edward Eugene Rottger of Butler and Richard Ralph and Jyl Rottger of Auburn; four daughters and sons-in-law, Linda Lou and Ronnie Williford of Auburn, Janet Irene and Robert Zimmerman of Butler, Janice Lynn and Edward Short of London, Ky., and Connie Sue and Jerry Brown of Garrett; 28 grandchildren; 55 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a son, Robert Allen Rottger, one granddaughter, three brothers and one sister.

Services will be Friday at 1 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. The Rev. Lorne MacMillan will officiate. Burial will be in Roselawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be today from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to St. Jude Children's Hospital or the Auburn Church of the Nazarene.

Irene

## Strater-Siebenaler

FORT WAYNE — Irene D. Strater-Siebenaler, 97, of Fort Wayne died Wednesday, July 11, 2007, at St. Anne's Home in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Strater-Siebenaler

She was a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church in rural Waterloo.

She was born Nov. 16, 1909, in Waterloo to Nicholas and Celina Margret (Schortgen) Deitzen. Her parents preceded her in death.

She married Moddise Strater in January 1928, and he died in July 1958.

She then married Bernard Siebenaler in April 1960. He died in December 1984.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Donald and Phyllis Strater of Lakewood, Ohio, and Lyle and Marilyn Strater of Florida; one daughter and son-in-law, Carol Ann and Jerry Rosswurm of Hamilton; four stepdaughters; one stepson; 10 grandchildren; and 32 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by one son, Neil Strater; one grandson, Craig Rosswurm; one brother; two sisters; one stepdaughter and two stepsons.

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. at St. Michael's Catholic Church, 1098 C.R. 39, Waterloo, with Father David Carkenord officiating. Burial will be in the St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery.

Calling will be tonight from 6-8 at the Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with a rosary service at 8, and Friday from 10-11 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to St. Anne's Nursing Home or St. Michael's Scholarship Fund.

## Bonnie Hollon

FORT WAYNE — Bonnie Dawn Hollon, 29, of Fort Wayne died July 4, 2007, at Holiday World in Santa Claus.

Ms. Hollon

She liked knitting and was a homemaker.

Ms. Hollon was born in Angola.

Survivors include her mother, Judy Brumbaugh of Auburn; her fiancé Matthew Shirley of Fort Wayne; her children, Mathlada Shirley of Fort Wayne and Jasmine Hollon of Illinois; a brother, Richard Brandon; a sister, Christy Miller of Auburn; grandmother Betty Rathbun of Orland; grandfather McKee of Fremont; 13 aunts and uncles, Nancy Schort of Pleasant Lake, Jackie Davis, Rosie Crubaugh, Donald Crubaugh and Edith Imse of Michigan, Loretta Stevens of Orland, Kat Shown and Betty Matlock of Angola, Donald Imse, Dewy Imse and Jo Ellen McKee of Fremont and Robert Crubaugh and Ed Crubaugh of Ohio; and many cousins.

Two children, Shane Shirley and Mackenzie Shirley, preceded her in death, along with her father, Sam Nickelson; grandfathers Jake Crubaugh and Wilbur Lytle; and grandmother Vivian McKee.

Services will be Friday at 1 p.m. at D.O. McComb & Sons Lakeside Park Funeral Home, 1140 Lake Ave., Fort Wayne. Burial will be in Catholic Cemetery.

Calling is one hour prior to the service.

## Bobbie Urban

AUBURN — Bobbie Lynn Urban, 65, of Auburn died Thursday, July 12, 2007, at her home.

Mrs. Urban worked at Messenger Corp. for the past 18 1/2 years.

She was born Nov. 28, 1941, in Wales, Ky., to Marion Little Jr. and Sybil (Anderson) Little. Her father preceded her in death, and her mother survives in Virgie, Ky.

She married William E. Urban in Huntington in 1968. He survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are a son, Mark Allen Urban of Auburn; a grandson, Jonas Ray Urban; three sisters and two brothers-in-law, Peggy Burnworth of Goshen, Judy and Tarhill Hooper of Ashville, N.C., and Sue and Larry Mullins of Virgie, Ky.; and four brothers and three sisters-in-law, Lloyd and Bonnie Little of West Jefferson, Ohio, George and Annette Little of Huntington, Glen and Alice Little of Virgie, Ky., and Maurice Little of Rutledge, Tenn.

She was preceded in death by a brother-in-law, Ron Burnworth.

Services will be Monday at 11 a.m. in Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Pastor Glen Patrick will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-6 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Diabetes Association.

## Marceille Higgins

GARRETT — Marceille (Murley) Higgins, 95, of Garrett, died Thursday, July 12, 2007, at her home.

Mrs. Higgins retired from Saint Mary's/Notre Dame as a registered nurse. She graduated from St. Joseph School of Nursing in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Higgins

She was born June 10, 1912, in Garrett.

Surviving are a brother, Richard Murley of Garrett; a son, John Higgins of Fort Wayne; a daughter, Anne Marie Higgins of Fort Wayne; and a grandson, Patrick Higgins of Fort Wayne.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Harold, in 1978.

A private family burial will be at a later date in Christian Union Cemetery of Garrett.

Memorials are to St. Joseph Catholic School in Garrett, the Garrett Public Library or DeKalb Memorial Home Health Services.

Condolences may be sent at www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, is handling arrangements.

## Richard Brunner

HUDSON — Richard L. Brunner, 76, of Hudson, died Thursday July 12, 2007 at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Born June 15, 1931, in Fort Wayne, he was a U.S. Army veteran, serving during the Korean War, and had retired as a custodian from McKenney-Harrison School in Auburn.

Surviving are three sons, Warren E. Worman of Wichita, Kan., Arthur G. Worman of Corunna and Rick A. Brunner of Angola; four daughters, Fay Morrow of Ashley, Janette Miller of Hudson, Teresa Norton of Fort Wayne and Jana Creamer of Fort Wayne; two brothers, Calvin Brunner of Mexico and Don Brunner of Florida; two sisters, Neoma Keener of Fort Wayne and Nancy Oberlin of Butler; 24 grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren.

Services will be Monday at 2 p.m. in Covington Memorial Funeral Home, 8408 Covington Road, Fort Wayne. Burial will be in Covington Memorial Gardens.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Riley Hospital for Children.

To sign an online guest book, visit www.covington-memorial.com.

The EVENING STAR
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## Lowell Gordon

LAOTTO — Lowell E. Gordon, 79, died Thursday, July 12, 2007, at Parkview Noble Hospital in Kendallville.

A Whitley County native, he was a tool and die maker with Miller Tool & Die for 16 years, retiring in 1995.

Mr. Gordon was a member of LaOtto Wesleyan Church.

Surviving are his wife, Nondis I. "Nibby" Gordon of LaOtto; four sons and daughters-in-law, Larry E. and Jackie Gordon of Avilla, Lonnie E. and Barbara Gordon of Summerville, S.C., Lynn E. and Denise Gordon of Albion and Lee E. and Liberty Gordon of Auburn; a daughter and son-in-law, Rita M. and Steve Noel of Fort Wayne; seven grandchildren; five step-grandchildren; and five brothers, Robert Gordon of Larwill, Ronald Gordon of Fairmont, David Gordon of Columbia City, Allen Gordon of Kimmell and Thomas Gordon of Australia.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Lawrence and Elizabeth Carter Gordon; and a sister, Carolyn Morrison.

Service will be at 10 a.m. Monday at D.O. McComb & Sons Pine Valley Park Funeral Home, 1320 E. Dupont Road, Fort Wayne. Burial will be in Highland Park Cemetery.

Call will be from 2 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m. Sunday and one hour prior to services Monday at the funeral home.

## Clayton Walkup

KENDALLVILLE — Clayton Walkup, 84, of Kendallville died Thursday, July 12, 2007, at North Ridge Village Nursing & Rehab Center in Albion.

Mr. Walkup

Mr. Walkup had retired from Auburn Gear in 1988.

He was a World War II United States Army veteran and an expert marksman.

Mr. Walkup was a member of the American Legion Post in Lady Lake, Fla.

He loved spending time with his family, playing cards, hunting, fishing and playing golf. He also enjoyed taking care of his yard and flowers and gardening.

He was born in Crawley, W.Va., on April 13, 1923, to Charles and Birdie Armitta (Keyes) Walkup. He married Ella Louise Osborne on Aug. 15, 1947, in Crawley. She died Jan. 31, 2003.

Surviving are two daughters and a son-in-law, Brenda and Ed Froelich and Kathy Zimmerman, all of Kendallville; a sister, Ruth Hall of Belle, W.Va.; a sister-in-law, Pearl Walkup Schmader of Kendallville; two grandsons, Todd Froelich of Kendallville and Arthur Allen of Wisconsin; two granddaughters and their husbands, Amy and Neal Sloffer of Fort Wayne and Stacy and Brian Natkin of Wichita Falls, Texas; three great-grandchildren, Abigail, Zachary and Mackenzie Sloffer, all of Fort Wayne; and many nieces and nephews.

He was also preceded in death by his daughter, Barbara Allen on Oct. 31, 2004, and a grandson, Shane Zimmerman on June 25, 1982. Also preceding him in death were his brothers, Billy, Ray, Roy, Phil, Howard, Loren, Luke and Lawrence; and his sisters, Ethel, Gertie, Alice, Madeline, Enna and Ruth.

Services will be Monday at 11 a.m. at Hite Funeral Home with the Rev. Dr. Thomas R. Clothier officiating. Burial will be in Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville.

Calling will be from 3-6 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home in Kendallville.

Memorials are to Parkview Noble Hospice, North Ridge Village Nursing Home and Rehab Center or to the donor's choice.

View a video tribute (after Sunday) or send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com

The EVENING STAR
JULY 15 2007 Auburn, Indiana

# Jennings worked hard, helped others

BY VIV ROSSWURM
vivianr@kpcnews.net

EDGERTON, Ohio — Kenny "Deke" Jennings of Edgerton, Ohio, and formerly of Butler lived his life the way God intended all humans to live, according to his younger sister, Maxine Sanders, also of Edgerton.

"He was a humble man, a quiet man and as honest as the day is long," Sanders said of the big brother who stuck around after their mother died and during their father's illness to take care of the family farm in Butler and serve as a mentor to his younger brothers and sisters.

Kenneth Jennings was 84 when he died June 18 in his home after battling Parkinson's disease for three years.

He was born on Oct. 11, 1922, near Butler, the son of Russell L. and Ruby H. (Platt) Jennings, the third of seven children. His father gave each child a nickname that stuck throughout their lifetimes. Kenny became Deke; Maxine became Murphy; older brother Paul became Buck; Evelyn became Effie; Margaret became Cork; Wilma became Till; and Richard was dubbed Rich.

"We all had nicknames, but Kenny's had a background," Sanders said. "At a very young age he was 'preaching' and became known as Deacon Dubbs from California, W.Va."

Sanders remembered her beloved brother in the weekly column she authors for the Edgerton Earth weekly newspaper: "After the death of our mother, our dad was in poor health and Kenny stayed at home and helped with the farming for several years with the only compensation being room and board, use of the family car, gas and a small amount of spending money. This allowed us to remain at our home together as a family. Thanks again, Deke."

Another sister, Wilma "Till" Armstrong of Butler, also has strong memories of her brother.

"He was very, very special," Armstrong said. "He was my big brother who always looked after me. I was always safe with Deke around."

A patient and loving man, Kenny Jennings was so shy he had trouble giving a report in front of his classmates, Armstrong said. He graduated from Butler High School in 1940 and married Phyllis Souder on Dec. 25, 1945, at Zion Church near Hamilton.

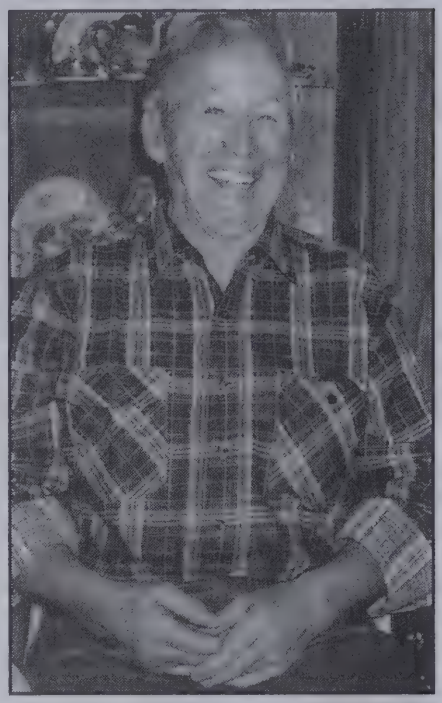

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Kenneth Jennings was a humble, quiet farmer who spent his whole life taking care of others. An honest and respected businessman, he enjoyed spending time with his family, his horses, making maple syrup, fox hunting and traveling.**

They had eight children — Greg, Steve, Gary, Kay, Mark, Jeff, Holly and Tracy. Tracy lived only a few hours after being born in 1965 and Jeff was 21 when he was killed in a traffic accident in 1980.

The death of his son was hard on his father and the rest of the family, as well, Mark Jennings remembers.

"We had all grown up not really experiencing any real tragedy," Jennings said. "We had two brothers — Steve and Gary — who had fought in Vietnam and came back unscathed, so Jeff's death was especially devastating to our family."

Mark Jennings asked his father several years ago what his favorite time period had been, and Kenny Jennings replied, "When all of my kids were still at home."

"He always had time to play with his kids," Mark Jennings said.

Kenny Jennings instilled some of his same values and work ethic in his children, according to Mark Jennings.

"Dad taught us how to work hard, how to be honest and how to always be willing to help somebody out. Although growing up, I didn't know it, I later realized that he was a wonderful father," he said.

Kenny Jennings loved spending time with his family on their 300-acre farm, where all the kids chipped in and helped with chores. He also loved horses. At his funeral, his coffin was carried the last mile to the cemetery in a horsedrawn carriage.

The Jennings family spent many days making maple syrup and used a horsedrawn wagon to gather the sap, Mark Jennings said.

"We worked hard," Jennings said. "One year we tapped over 400 trees."

Kenny Jennings was an avid fox hunter and belonged to a fox hunting club. In addition to farming, he owned and operated Lindsey Water Softening from 1969 until his retirement. Three of his grown children — Steve, Mark and Holly — all own their own businesses.

After the kids were grown and gone, Kenny and Phyllis Jennings bought a motor home and traveled, something they enjoyed, Mark Jennings said.

"Because dad worked so hard and paid for his farm, he was able to cash-rent his farm and enjoy traveling around the country. They went to Alaska three times," Jennings said.

Kenny Jennings also enjoyed spending time with his 15 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. He was a member of the Do-It-Right Farm Bureau Council for more than 50 years and a member of Big Run Church in Butler.

The quiet, unassuming man with the radiant smile would have nothing to do with dishonesty in any form, said his son, Mark Jennings. And he always went out of his way to help others.

"Everyone should be blessed with a brother like we had," Sanders said. "He will live in our hearts forever."

The EVENING STAR
JULY 15 2007 Auburn, Indiana

## Jonathan Hagerman

LIGONIER — Jonathan Robert Hagerman, 33, of Ligonier, died early Saturday, July 14, 2007, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

He had been employed at Guardian Industries in Ligonier until becoming disabled in 1993, and had also worked as a general carpenter. He was a member of the Rock of Ages Church of Love in Ligonier.

**Mr. Hagerman**

Mr. Hagerman was born in Richlands, Va., on Oct. 8, 1973, the son of Tommy and Leah (Hicks) Hagerman, and they survive in Ligonier. He spent most of his life in Ligonier and Paynesville, W.V. He married Tiffany Vance in Albion Jan. 3, 1994, and she survives.

Also surviving are four sons, Charlie Ray Bailey of San Antonio, Texas, Jonathan Lee Byrd of Norfolk, Va., and Nicholas Robert Hagerman and Madison Andrew Hagerman, both of Ligonier; three daughters, Crystal Marie Hagerman and Mary Marindia Carlisle of Norfolk, and Brittney Dawn Hagerman of Ligonier; six brothers and sisters-in-law, Allen and Mary Hagerman, Stephen and Nancy Hagerman, Jeffrey and Betty Hagerman and Michael and Stephanie Hagerman, all of Paynesville, Anthony and Chrissy Hagerman of Ligonier, and Aaron and Shannon Hagerman of Chicago; five sisters and brothers-in-law, Ann and Ron Marshall of Auburn, Sherry and Luther Hagerman of Ocala, Fla., Carolyn and Ernest Vance of Albion, Deleah and Dennis Ratliff of Topeka, and Tommi Jo and Estil Pruitt of Ligonier.

In addition to his grandparents, he was preceded in death by a son, Joshua Adam Hagerman in 1993; two sisters, Madlene Hagerman and Ethelene Hagerman; a brother, Mark Hagerman; and a brother-in-law Charles Gross.

Mr. Hagerman will be taken from the Sheets & Childs Funeral Home in Churubusco to the residence of his parents at 8919 N. C.R. 450W, Ligonier, where friends may call after 4 p.m. Monday. The funeral will be held from the residence at 6 p.m. Monday with Russell Hicks and Elbert Hagerman officiating. Final services will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday at the Bright Morning Star Church in Paynesville. Additional calling will be at the church after 6 p.m. Tuesday or prior to the service Wednesday.

Burial will be in the Hagerman Cemetery, Beartown, W.V.

## Daryl Dove

AUBURN — Daryl D. Dove, 53, of Auburn died Saturday, July 14, 2007, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Dove worked at SPX Contech in Auburn. He was a former emergency medical technician.

A 1972 graduate of Eastside High School, he was an avid sportsman and fisherman. He loved Indiana University basketball, Colts football and spending time with his grandchildren

He was born Nov. 13, 1953, in Bryan, Ohio, to Authur and Esther (Young) Dove. They preceded him in death.

Surviving are three sons, Brad Dove and his wife, Hollie, of Fort Wayne, Chris Dove and his girlfriend, Doreen DuBois, of Butler, and Dan Dove and his wife, Janice, of St. Joe; four brothers and three sisters-in-law, Larry and Kat Dove of Butler, Gary Dove of Butler, David and Lori Dove of Angola and Jim and Tari Dove of Butler; a sister, Deanna Dohner of Garrett; eight grandchildren, Harrison Dove, Claire Dove, Jorden Dove, Alex Nodine, Nick Nodine, Holly Burns, Justin DuBois and Gavin DuBois; and a special friend, Shirley Ginder of Fort Wayne, and her family, whom he considered part of his own family.

Services will be Wednesday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Burial will be in Edon Cemetery in Edon, Ohio.

Calling will be Tuesday from 2-8 p.m. at the funeral home

Memorials are to the family.

## Rosa Gingrich

MARSHALL, Mich. — Rosa V. Gingrich, 94, of Marshall, Mich., and formerly of Auburn died Sunday, July 8, 2007, at Hospice Northwest of Ohio in Toledo, Ohio.

Mrs. Gingrich worked at Lyle Leas Grocery Store in Auburn, Freddie's Market in Marshall, Mich., and the State Farm Insurance Co.'s regional office in Marshall until retiring in 1977. After retirement she started doing private catering and catered many private parties and events for State Farm.

She was a member of Trinity Episcopal Church in Marshall, where she volunteered her time at many events, including dinners. She also was a member of the Oaklawn Hospital Auxiliary, where she volunteered for many hours. As a member and past Worthy Matron of Eudora Chapter 385 Order of the Eastern Star, she served on two state committees, the Sunshine Committee of Grand Chapter and as Grand Representative to New Hampshire in Michigan. She was a member of the Pythian Sisters in Marshall. Until recently would drive her friends to appointments, an evidence of her willingness to help almost anyone in need.

She enjoyed time with her family and loved to cook and sew, making many items of her daughters' clothing.

She grew up in Avilla and graduated from Avilla High School as valedictorian of the class of 1932.

She was born Aug. 14, 1912, in Burkett to Franklin and Roxie (Snider) Miller.

She married Dale I. Gingrich on Oct. 3, 1935. They volunteered to be the first couple married as part of the Auburn fair in a public ceremony. She had said it was the only way they could afford a wedding ceremony, because everything was donated by the fair.

They lived in Auburn untl the late 1950s, when they moved to Marshall, Mich. Their marriage ended in divorce in 1964.

Surviving are a daughter, Sally L. Ferguson of Toledo, Ohio; two grandchildren and their spouses, Paul Douglas and Karen Williams of Kalamazoo, Mich., and Teresa L. and George Cross of Holland, Ohio; and six great-grandchildren and spouses, Bridgett and Brian Mitchell of Sylvania, Ohio, George and Dana Cross of Fountain, Colo., Conor Williams of Brooklyn, N.Y., Tyler Williams of Boston, Mass., Evan Williams of Kalamazoo, Mich., and Griffin Williams of Kalamazoo; and five great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a daughter, Jane L. Russell, on Jan. 20, 1992; and a sister, Thelma Johns.

Services were held Thursday, July 12, at 11 a.m. at Trinity Church with the Rev. Leonard Brinkmoeller officiating. Doug Williams, Conor Williams, Tyler Williams, Evan Williams, George Cross and Fred Peek were pallbearers. Burial was in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

An Eastern Star service was held at Craig K. Kempf Funeral Home, 103 E. Mansion St., Marshall, Mich., Wednesday evening.

Memorials are to Trinity Church. Assistance with memorials is available at the funeral home.

An online guest register may be signed at www.kempffuneralhome.com.

## David Smith

AUBURN — David L. Smith, 63, died Saturday, July 14, 2007, in Auburn.

Mr. Smith was a laborer with Alliance Industries for five years. He was a member of the Human Rights Committee and Dayspring Community Church of Auburn.

He was born Aug. 30, 1943, in Fort Wayne.

He is survived by his wife, Janice Marie Smith of Auburn.

Services will be Thursday at 10 a.m. in McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. Burial will be in Covington Cemetery in Fort Wayne.

Calling will be Wednesday from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Jerry Lewis Telethon.

## Diane Kessler

AUBURN — Diane B. Kessler, 71, of Auburn died Monday, July 16, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mrs. Kessler was a homemaker and a former secretary for Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, where she was a member. Before working at the church, she worked for the first cable television company in Auburn.

She was born June 29, 1936, in Auburn to James W. and Joan (Pence) Benson. They preceded her in death.

She married Joseph D. Kessler on Sept. 18, 1956, in Auburn. He survives.

Also surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Joel and Kathy Kessler of Auburn and Timothy and Laura Kessler of Auburn; a daughter and son-in-law, Jennifer and John Davidson of Auburn; a brother and sister-in-law, James and Mary Benson of Auburn; and two grandchildren, Darcy Davidson and Benjamin Davidson, both of Auburn.

Services will be Thursday at 10 a.m. in Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 500 E. Seventh St., Auburn. Father Babasino Fernandez will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Wednesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home and Thursday from 9-10 a.m. at the church. A rosary service will begin at 6 p.m. Wednesday in the funeral home.

Memorials are to St. Martin's Health Care Services.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** *is being reprinted to include the time of services. We apologize for an error in Monday's edition.*

## Daryl Dove

AUBURN — Daryl D. Dove, 53, of Auburn died Saturday, July 14, 2007, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Dove worked at SPX Contech in Auburn. He was a former emergency medical technician.

A 1972 graduate of Eastside High School, he was an avid sportsman and fisherman. He loved Indiana University basketball, Colts football and spending time with his grandchildren

He was born Nov. 13, 1953, in Bryan, Ohio, to Authur and Esther (Young) Dove. They preceded him in death.

Surviving are three sons, Brad Dove and his wife, Hollie, of Fort Wayne, Chris Dove and his girlfriend, Doreen DuBois, of Butler, and Dan Dove and his wife, Janice, of St. Joe; four brothers and three sisters-in-law, Larry and Kat Dove of Butler, Gary Dove of Butler, David and Lori Dove of Angola and Jim and Tari Dove of Butler; a sister, Deanna Dohner of Garrett; eight grandchildren, Harrison Dove, Claire Dove, Jorden Dove, Alex Nodine, Nick Nodine, Holly Burns, Justin DuBois and Gavin DuBois; and a special friend, Shirley Ginder of Fort Wayne, and her family, whom he considered part of his own family.

Services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. in Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Burial will be in Edon Cemetery in Edon, Ohio.

Calling will be today from 2-8 p.m. at the funeral home

Memorials are to the family.

## Mark Crowl

VANDALIA, Mich. — Mark Allen "Big Dog" Crowl, 36, of Vandalia, Mich., died Sunday, July 15, 2007, when he accidentally drowned in a pond at his home.

Mr. Crowl was a senior technical specialist with SECO Tools. He moved to the Vandalia area in 1989 from Hamilton.

He was a 1993 graduate of Bethel College in Mishawaka and played on the college basketball team. He was a member of the Bristol United Methodist Church. He coached both Rockett Football and Junior Pro Basketball in Constantine, Mich. He was a former Cub Scout leader with Pack 410 in Constantine and was a member of the Airline Snowmobile Club. He was an outdoorsman and loved hunting, fishing, boating, and spending time with his family and friends. He was known for his uplifting spirit and willingness to help anyone in need.

He was born June 2, 1971, in Angola to Jerry and Arlene (Overholtz) Crowl. They survive in Butler.

He married his best friend, Wendy Kay Latson, on Aug. 5, 2006, in their home in Vandalia, and she survives.

Also surviving are three sons, Matthew Crowl, Michael Crowl and Hunter Lindbert, all at home; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Keith and Wanda Crowl and Bruce and Renee Crowl, all of Hamilton; and aunts, uncles, cousins and many friends.

Services will be Thursday at 6 p.m. in Connelly Funeral Home, 202 N. Broadway, Cassopolis, Mich., with Pastor Fred Stayton officiating. Cremation will follow the funeral service.

Calling will be today from 5-8 p.m. and Thursday from 5-6 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family for a scholarship fund that will be created for Mr. Crowl's children.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** *is being reprinted to include the location of calling. We apologize for omitting it in Tuesday's edition.*

## Diane Kessler

AUBURN — Diane B. Kessler, 71, of Auburn died Monday, July 16, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mrs. Kessler was a homemaker and a former secretary for Immaculate Conception Catholic church, where she is a member. Before working at the church, she worked for the first cable television company in Auburn.

She was born June 29, 1936, in Auburn to James W. and Joan (Pence) Benson.

They preceded her in death.

She married Joseph D. Kessler on Sept. 18, 1956, in Auburn. He survives.

Also surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Joel and Kathy Kessler of Auburn and Timothy and Laura Kessler of Auburn; a daughter and son-in-law, Jennifer and John Davidson of Auburn; a brother and sister-in-law, James and Mary Benson of Auburn; and two grandchildren, Darcy Davidson and Benjamin Davidson, both of Auburn.

Services will be Thursday at 10 a.m. in Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 500 E. Seventh St., Auburn. Father Babasino Fernandez will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be today from 2-4 and 6-8 p,m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, and Thursday from 9-10 a.m. at the church. A rosary service will begin at 6 p.m. today in the funeral home.

Memorials are to St. Martin's Health Care Services.

## Betty Shaw

AUBURN — Betty D. Shaw, 87, of Auburn, died Tuesday, July 17, 2007, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Born in Auburn, she was a packer for the County Line Cheese factory for 18 years, retiring in 1982. She graduated from Auburn High School in 1938.

Surviving are a daughter, Linda Price of Waterloo; a son, Terry Thomas of Fort Wayne; four grandchildren, Lanie Thomas of Rome City, Aaron Price and Ryan Price, both of Waterloo, and John Thomas of Ashley; and six great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband; her parents; two brothers, Howard and Dick Poppele; a granddaughter, Chelse;, and two sisters, Virginia Wing and Irene Olinger.

Graveside services will be Friday at 1 p.m. at Woodlawn Cemetery, 1605 S. Center St., Auburn.

McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, is handling arrangements.

## Dorotha Shirley

AUBURN — Dorotha B. Shirley, 92, of Auburn died Tueday, July 17, 2007, at Wesley HealthCare in Auburn.

Mrs. Shirley co-owned and operated the Lakeside Grocery Store at Lake James for eight years. She was the manager of retail at the 76 Truck Stop in Fremont for seven years.

She was baptized at Hicksville (Ohio) United Methodist Church and attended there until 1937. She was a member of the Angola United Methodist Church from 1958 to 1981. She then moved to Cullman, Ala., and became an active member and volunteer of the Cullman United Methodist Church from 1982 to 1990. She attended the United Methodist Church in Andalusia, Ala., from 1991 to 2004. She also was a member of the DAV Auxiliary.

She was born March 19, 1915, in Hicksville, Ohio, to Charles E. and Ada (Banks) Sinn.

She married Henry L. "Hank" Shirley in Nappanee on April 23, 1937. He survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Michael and Suzanne Shirley of Waterloo; a daughter, Laurel Bolles of Indianapolis; five grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, Lowell Sinn.

A memorial service will be Saturday at 2 p.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. Pastor Dave Cole will officiate. Burial will be in Six Corners Cemetery at Hicksville, Ohio.

Calling will be Saturday from 1-2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Alzheimer's Association.

## Martha Hunter

GARRETT — Martha M. "Brownie" Hunter, 85, of Garrett died Thursday, July 19, 2007, at 7:20 a.m. at her home.

Mrs. Hunter was a homemaker and had worked at Stern's clothing store and Sacred Heart Hospital, both in Garrett, in the 1960s and 1970s.

**Mrs. Hunter**

She was a member of the Garrett United Methodist Church and the auxiliaries of the Eagles, Elks and American Legion, all in Garrett. She enjoyed helping with Meals on Wheels and many projects of the Garrett United Methodist Church.

She was born July 19, 1922, in Auburn to John C. and Edna M. (Fry) Brown. She was raised in Auburn and graduated from Auburn High School in 1940.

She married John J. "Joe" Hunter on June 8, 1944, in Mishawaka. He died April 8, 1986.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Victor L. and Linda Hunter of Milwaukee, Wis., and Patrick A. and Wendy Hunter of Corunna; eight grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and a sister, Elizabeth S. Haislip of Waterloo.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, Max S. "Tank" Brown.

Services will be Sunday at 1 p.m. in Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett. Andrew Hunter will officiate. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery of Garrett.

Calling will be Saturday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Garrett United Methodist Church preschool and elementary education programs.

To send a condolence or sign an online register book, visit www.thomasfuneral-home.com.

## Rev. Everett Haines

AUBURN — The Rev. Everett L. Haines, 90, of Auburn, died Wednesday, July 18, 2007, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

The Rev. Haines was a Methodist minister for 22 years, serving area churches until his retirement in 1979. He was a member of the Waterloo United Methodist Church and an associate member of the North Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church.

He was a staff sergeant in the U.S. Army, serving in World War II from 1941 to 1945.

He was born Jan. 19, 1917, in LaGrange to Art and Ida (Detterman) Haines. They preceded him in death.

He married Evelyn Sechrist on May 12, 1943, in Warsaw. She died April 1, 2003.

Surviving are three daughters and two sons-in-law, Martha and Allen Albert of Fort Wayne, Nancy Haines of Auburn and Rebecca Flener and Richard Flener Jr. of New Haven; four grandchildren, Mark Albert and his wife, Karen, of LaGrange, Michael Albert of Radcliff, Ky., Jenna Sprowl and her husband, David Paul, of Goose Creek, S.C., and Kristin Flener of New Haven; two great-grandchildren, Nicholas and Austin Albert; a sister, Helen Wagner of Warsaw; and two brothers and sisters-in-law, Robert and Betty Haines of North Webster and Paul "Bud" and Frances Haines of New Paris.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Donald Haines, and two sisters, Edith Wertenverger and Ethel Yarger.

Services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. in Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Clare Jewell officiating. Burial will be in the Waterloo Cemetery.

Calling will be today from 2-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Betz Nursing Home of Auburn.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** *is being reprinted with new information about memorial donations.*

## Martha Hunter

GARRETT — Martha M. "Brownie" Hunter, 85, of Garrett died Thursday, July 19, 2007, at 7:20 a.m. at her home.

**Mrs. Hunter**

Mrs. Hunter was a homemaker and had worked at Stern's clothing store and Sacred Heart Hospital, both in Garrett, in the 1960s and 1970s.

She was a member of the Garrett United Methodist Church and the auxiliaries of the Eagles, Elks and American Legion, all in Garrett. She enjoyed helping with Meals on Wheels and many projects of the Garrett United Methodist Church.

She was born July 19, 1922, in Auburn to John C. and Edna M. (Fry) Brown. She was raised in Auburn and graduated from Auburn High School in 1940.

She married John J. "Joe" Hunter on June 8, 1944, in Mishawaka. He died April 8, 1986.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Victor L. and Linda Hunter of Milwaukee, Wis., and Patrick A. and Wendy Hunter of Corunna; eight grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren; and a sister, Elizabeth S. Haislip of Waterloo.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, Max S. "Tank" Brown.

Services will be Sunday at 1 p.m. in Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett. Andrew Hunter will officiate. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery of Garrett.

Calling will be Saturday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Garrett United Methodist Church Children's Department Education Committee.

To send a condolence or sign an online register book, visit www.thomasfuneralhome.com.

## Emily Thomson

GARRETT — Emily G. Thomson, 89, of Garrett died at 3:27 a.m. Saturday, July 21, 2007, at Wesley HealthCare in Auburn.

Mrs. Thomson was a homemaker and member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Garrett.

She was also a member of the Garrett Eagles Auxiliary, Harvest House and Daughters of Isabella.

She was born July 10, 1918, in Chicago to Joseph and Anna (Zekas) Nieman.

She married Mac Thomson on July 10, 1943, in Chicago. He died Sept. 12, 1977.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Clarence and Kim Thomson of Auburn and Ernest and Lois Thomson of Uniondale; one daughter and son-in-law, Beverly and Tom Blust of Garrett; two brothers, Leonard Nieman of Chicago and Daniel Nieman of Manchester, N.H.; one sister, Lorraine Delaune of Las Vegas, Nev.; five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, Stanley and Raymond Nieman, and one sister, Johanna Borowski, in addition to her husband and her parents.

There will be no visitation or services.

Memorials are to St. Joseph Catholic Church.

Thomas Funeral Home of Garrett is handling arrangements.

To send a condolence or sign an online register, visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

## Rebecca Jane Muesing-Delp

KENDALLVILLE — Rebecca Jane Muesing-Delp, 80, of Kendallville, died Saturday, July 21, 2007, at her home.

Along with her husband, Mrs. Muesing helped operate and was a bookkeeper for Muesing Farms. She was a farm wife and homemaker and enjoyed raising hens, cooking and baking.

**Mrs. Muesing -Delp**

A 1945 Kendallville High School graduate, she loved to entertain family and friends and was proficient at playing the violin. She enjoyed her water aerobics class at the YMCA and sang in the choir at Englewood Presbyterian Church.

She was a member of St. John Lutheran Church in Kendallville and the Community Presbyterian Church of Englewood, Fla. She was also a member of the Charm and Chatter Home Extension Club and a former member of Sigma Eta Sorority.

Mrs. Muesing was born May 2, 1927, in Kendallville to Linus and Mildred (Lehner) Kimmel.

She married Robert Walter Muesing on June 15, 1947, at the Lutheran Church in Avilla. He died in 1996.

She then married Richard "Bob" Eugene Delp on March 25, 2003, in Florida, and they spent summers in Kendallville and winters in Englewood, Fla.

Surviving are her husband; four daughters and three sons-in-law, Barbara and Mike Wert of Kendallville, Nancy and Tom Sible of Kendallville, Mary Beth Stevens of Gahanna, Ohio, Natalie and Kent Dilling of Sioux Falls, S.D.; 11 grandchildren and their spouses, Liz and Gary Dielman of Butler, Carrie and Kyle Wert, both of Kendallville, Amanda McCormick of Garland, Tex., Kelly and Chris Wallen of Rome City, Kim and Mike Messer of Avilla, Tim Rogers of Elkhart, Nolan Stevens of Gahanna, Ohio, and Katie Dilling, Travis Dilling and Tye Dilling, all of Sioux Falls, S.D.; eight great-grandchildren; one sister-in-law, Margaret Griffin of Garrett; four stepdaughters, Susan Aprea of Detroit, Jeanette Anderson and Gina Amador of California and Joann Zellman of Texas; and two stepsons, Gilbert Amador and Richard Amador of California.

She was preceded in death by a brother, William Kimmel, and two sisters, Olive Scott and Phyllis Carter.

Services will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. at St. John Lutheran Church in Kendallville with the Rev. Paul Griebel and Robert Shriner officiating. Burial will be at Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville.

Calling will be Monday from 3-8 p.m. and Tuesday from 10-11 a.m. at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville.

Memorials are to St. John Lutheran Church or the American Heart Association

To view a video tribute (after Monday) or send condolences to the family, go online to the Web site www.hitefuneralhome.com.

The EVENING STAR
JULY 22 2007 Auburn, Indiana

# Great voice, 'wonderful man'

## Angola's Singing Lumberjack, Jeff Andrews, dies at 58

BY TIFFANY YODER
tiffanyy@kpcnews.net

ANGOLA — Jeff Andrews was known primarily for two things in Steuben County: His singing and timber.

He was involved with numerous bands over the years, including Cupid and the Heartbreakers and the Simon Peter Christian Gospel Band. He also was owner of Forrest Management Lumber Co.

"Everyone around here knows him for those two things," said Jeanette Andrews, his widow.

Known throughout the area as "The Singing Lumberjack," he died Thursday, July 12, 2007, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne. He was 58 years old.

"He was just a wonderful man," said Jeanette.

Jeffery had been singing since he was young, and in junior high he started with a band, Cupid and the Heartbreakers, with some friends. The band played covers of much of the music that was out at the time, as well as original music. Jeffery had already started writing his own music at this point.

A special song for Jeffery was "My Back Pages," by the Byrds. Former bandmate Robert Rickman, Pleasant Lake, said the audience response was different when Jeffery played "My Back Pages."

"It was something else when we came out with that song," he said.

While only teenagers, the band had the best equipment they could afford, which sometimes hurt them. They were once disqualified from a talent competition while only in junior high for their sound quality.

"They said we sounded too professional," Robert said.

The band eventually won a recording contract from Fort Wayne and recorded their first set of music. They would rehearse most weekends as well as several hours on weeknights while in school.

Cupid and the Heartbreakers got their first paid job at the Bryan Inn in Bryan, Ohio. Shortly after they were hired at the Starlight Inn in Bryan, Ohio. They started playing every Friday, Saturday and Sunday night.

As the house band, they became so popular that while most of the band was still only 16 years old, they were asked to play Wednesday nights as well.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Jeff Andrews was a member of the Christian rock band Simon Peter. This plublicity photo was used for the 2006 Praisathon Musicfest, where the band performed. The band played regularly around Steuben County. Other members included Bill Glover, John DeGroff and Dave Hetrick.**

"That was a fantastic time," Robert said. "We were really, really good."

The crowd's favorite band member was always Andrews. Robert describes Andrews as the most attractive member of the band. He was lead singer, guitarist, and played drums and keyboard on some songs as well.

"He was the leader of the band," said Robert. "He liked being up front, and we all wanted him to be up front."

Andrews continued his music throughout his life, playing with a band that Cupid and the Heartbreakers had idolized. Their entire band eventually joined the same band they had idolized when younger. Jeff would get married later to Jeanette, at which point the band members went their separate ways.

"We kept in touch, though," said Robert.

When Andrews recorded his first album, Robert was able to play on some of his tracks. With Conway Twitty's band as his backup, Robert doesn't question whether Andrews could have been famous had he taken the risk in the volatile music business. The two had been discussing work on a new music project together before Andrews' passing.

Friends since first grade, Robert described Andrews as "a real leader, and real compassionate." Robert also described Andrews as a jokester.

He told the story of a time when Jeffery rode into Skip's Party Place on horseback, while in full Western gear. He got off the horse, said that he didn't have money, but someone should get him a beer anyway. A friend of Skip Hamilton's, he was served.

"Everyone got a big kick out of that," said Robert.

In his later years, Andrews began singing Gospel music. He performed at several area churches with the Simon Peter Band. Jeanette said many people asked which church Jeff belonged to. She said he went to every church he could go to, not only to sing, but just to visit.

"He belonged to all of them," she said.

The EVENING STAR
JULY 24 2007 Auburn, Indiana

## Kenneth Wallace

WATERLOO — Kenneth R. Wallace, 64, of Waterloo died Sunday, July 22, 2007, in the emergency room at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Wallace

Mr. Wallace had retired in 2006 from Fleetwood Homes in Garrett after 15 years of service.

He had spent most of his life in LaGrange County.

He was born Dec. 28, 1942, in Wayland, Ky., to Frieda Stanley. He married Sue Ritchie on June 4, 1977, in Wolcottville. She survives.

Also surviving are four sons and a daughter-in-law, Keith and Sheryl Wallace and Kevin Wallace, all of LaGrange, Shawn Wallace of Fort Walton, Fla., and Jason Wallace, at home; and six grandchildren, Lindsey Delancy and Cassie, Lukas, Kayla, Rusty and Gavin Wallace.

He was preceded in death by his mother; a son; and a brother, Walter Stanley Jr.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Community Baptist Church, C.R. 700S, Wolcottville, with the Rev. Lee Combs officiating. Burial will be in Woodruff Cemetery. His sons will serve as pallbearers.

Calling will be after 3 p.m. Wednesday at the church.

Memorials are to the family.

Young Family Funeral Home, Wolcottville Chapel, is in charge of arrangements.

Condolences may be sent online to www.youngfamily-funeralhome.com.

The EVENING STAR
JULY 25 2007 Auburn, Indiana

## Dorothy Hicks

BUTLER — Dorothy G. Hicks, 63, died May 4, 2007, in Victorville, Calif.

She was born Aug. 12, 1943, in Butler to Ora and Elva (Smith) Healy.

Mrs. Hicks

In 1968, she moved to California, where she worked for the State of California Medical Field Office for 25 years.

Surviving are two sons, Bobby Russell Hicks of Arcadia, Calif., and John Hicks of Pasadena, Calif.; three daughters and two sons-in-law, Tammy and Herman Chavarin and Ronda and Luis Caballero, all of Victorville, and Vera Hicks of Pasadena; 16 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; two brothers, Earl Healy of Auburn and Harold Healy of Bullhead City, Ariz., and a sister, Sandra Saffen of Fort Wayne.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a daughter, Eva Hicks; and a brother, Gerald Healy.

Graveside memorial services will be Saturday at 2 p.m. in Big Run Cemetery, east of Butler.

A fellowship time will be held at the home of Earl Healy, 2858 C.R. 56, Auburn, after the services.

H.E. Johnson & Son Funeral Home of Butler is handling arrangements.

## Helen Huntsman

ALBION — Helen E. Huntsman, 96, of Fort Wayne and formerly of Albion died at 5:45 a.m. Thursday, July 26, 2007, at Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla where she had been a resident since April.

**Mrs. Huntsman**

Mrs. Huntsman had moved to Fort Wayne in 2000 from rural Albion to live with a daughter.

She spent her formative years in rural DeKalb County and graduated from Auburn High School in 1930.

As a young woman she worked at NIPSCO in Auburn and following her marriage, she and her husband owned and operated the Burr Oak Store for 15 years.

Mrs. Huntsman was a member of Burr Oak Baptist Church, the Burr Oak Ladies Guild and The Gleaners.

She enjoyed traveling, sewing, reading, doing crossword puzzles and bargain shopping.

She was born June 25, 1911, to Joe and Ethel (Close) Miller. She married Carl G. Huntsman of Oct. 1, 1932, in Albion. He died Nov. 7, 1989.

Surviving are three sons, Steven Huntsman and Jeni Mitchell of Burnsville, Minn., Joe and Beverly Huntsman of Albion and Hugh Huntsman of Lyons, Col.; two daughters, Cynthia and Thomas Haller of Fort Wayne and Anne and Richard Simon of Kendallville; a sister, Joanne and Jim Fitch of Auburn; a brother, David and Ruth Miller of Auburn; 13 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by a sister, Lela Rathard, and two brothers, Donald and Richard Keith Miller.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Sunday at Burr Oak Baptist Church. Burial will be in Christian Chapel Cemetery at Merriam.

Calling will be from 2-8 p.m. Saturday at Sheets & Childs Funeral Home in Churubusco and one hour prior to services Sunday at the church.

Memorials are to the church of the donor's choice.

## John Grama

GARRETT — John J. Grama, 96, of Garrett died at 3:06 p.m. Friday, July 27, 2007, in Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Grama lived in Garrett from 1948 to 1965, then moved to San Bernadino, Calif., where he resided from 1965 to 1995 before he moved back to Garrett.

He was a Metroplitan insurance agent in San Bernadino and owner of Simons Grocery Store in Garrett.

Mr. Grama was a World War II U.S. Army veteran, a member of the Garrett American Legion, V.F.W., Eagles, Elks and Knights of Columbus in Garrett, and a member of the Garrett Fire Department.

On June 29, 1921, in Willard, Ohio, he was born to John and Mary (Sarchis) Grama. He married Joanna F. (Simon) Richmond on July 13, 1947, in Willard, Ohio. She preceded him in death on March 24, 1993. He married Mary Barcus (Weeks) on June 24, 1995, in Auburn. She survives.

Surviving, in addition to his wife, are: three sons and daughters-in-law, Jim and Sandy Richmond of Garrett, Michael and Susan Barcus of Mechanicsville, Va., and Mark and Nancy Jo Barcus of Columbia, S.C.; a son-in-law, Craig Gilliland of Oakland, Calif.; several grandchildren; several great-grandchildren; and several great-great-grandchildren.

In addition to his first wife, Joanna F. Grama, a daughter, Cathy Gilliland, and a brother, Thomas Grama, preceded him in death.

Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Garrett, with Fr. Ted Uwakwe officiating. Burial will be at a later date in Calvary Cemetery, Garrett.

Calling is from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at Thomas Funeral Home, Garrett, and one hour prior to services at the church.

Memorials are to the donor's choice.

Condolences may be sent online to www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

## Dale Meyer

BUTLER — Dale V. Meyer, 95, formerly of Butler, died Saturday, July, 28, 2007, in the Shepherd of the Hill nursing home in Kendallville.

He was a long-time member of the Big Run E.U.B. Church just east of Butler, and enjoyed playing the organ at church, high school commencement ceremonies and at the Sunshine Park Campground in Florida.

He was a retired Stafford Township farmer.

On Sept. 7, 1911, in Dover, Ohio, he was born to Edward W. and Bertha (Torgler) Meyer. He married Virginia C. Chandler on Dec. 24, 1938, in Gary. She preceded him in death on Oct. 15, 1984.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Lynn and Carolyn Meyer of Kendallville, and William and Cindy Meyer of Noblesville; a brother, Donald Meyer of South Bend; two sisters, Margaret Elliot of Corning, Ark., and Grace Bunich of Crown Point, Ind.; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

A brother, Robert, and a sister, June Dado, preceded him in death.

Graveside services will be Monday at the Butler Cemetery in Butler with the Rev. Robert Meyer of the Lafayette Salvation Army officiating.

Memorials are to the Noble County Hospice.

H. E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler, is in charge of arrangements.

## Pauline Mitchell

GARRETT — Pauline Martha (Lung) Mitchell, 92, of Avilla and formerly of Garrett, died at 8:20 p.m. Friday, July 27, 2007, at Provena Sacred Heart Home, Avilla.

Mrs. Mitchell

She worked for 52 years at Garrett Hardware before retiring in 1994 at age 80.

She was a member of the Garrett United Methodist Church, Garrett Parks Board, Psi Iota Xi Sorority, and was active in the church community and Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

On Dec. 28, 1914, in Butler Center, rural Garrett, she was born to Frank A. and Myrtle V. (Mowry) Lung. She married Harry M. Mitchell on July 23, 1937, in Butler Center. He preceded her in death.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Linda and Fred Demske of Kendallville; a daughter-in-law, Jane Mitchell of Fort Wayne; two grandsons, Mark Demske of Huntertown, and Jason Mitchell of Auburn; a granddaughter, Lynette Gerard of Fort Wayne; and a brother, Noel Muhn, of Erwin, Tenn.

In addition to her husband, a son, Kenneth Mitchell, and a brother, Lester Lung, preceded her in death.

Services will be from 4 to 8 p.m. Monday at Thomas Funeral Home with Dr. Scott Shoaff officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery, Garrett.

Calling will be from 4 to 8 p.m. Monday at Thomas Funeral Home.

Memorials are to the Garrett Community Center or Provena "E" Unit.

Condolences may be sent online at www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** is *being reprinted with a correction in the time of the funeral service. We apologize for the error.*

## Pauline Mitchell

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**Mrs. Mitchell**

Mrs. Mitchell worked for 52 years at Garrett Hardware before retiring in 1994 at age 80.

She was a member of the Garrett United Methodist Church, Garrett Parks Board and Psi Iota Xi Sorority, and was active in the church community and Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

On Dec. 28, 1914, in Butler Center of rural Garrett, she was born to Frank A. and Myrtle V. (Mowry) Lung.

She married Harry M. Mitchell on July 23, 1937, in Butler Center. He preceded her in death.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Linda and Fred Demske of Kendallville; a daughter-in-law, Jane Mitchell of Fort Wayne; two grandsons, Mark Demske of Huntertown and Jason Mitchell of Auburn; a granddaughter, Lynette Gerard of Fort Wayne; and a brother, Noel Muhn, of Erwin, Tenn.

In addition to her husband, a son, Kenneth Mitchell, and a brother, Lester Lung, preceded her in death.

Services will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. in Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, with Dr. Scott Shoaff officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery of Garrett.

Calling will be today from 4-8 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home.

Memorials are to the Garrett Community Center or Provena "E" Unit.

Condolences may be sent online at www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** *is being reprinted to correct an error. We apologize for the error.*

## John Grama

GARRETT — John J. Grama, 86, of Garrett died at 3:06 p.m. Friday, July 27, 2007, in Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Grama lived in Garrett from 1948 to 1965, then moved to San Bernadino, Calif., where he resided from 1965 to 1995 before he moved back to Garrett.

He was a Metropolitan insurance agent in San Bernadino and owner of Simons Grocery Store in Garrett.

Mr. Grama was a World War II U.S. Army veteran. He was a member of the Garrett posts of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Eagles, Elks and Knights of Columbus in Garrett and the Garrett Fire Department.

He was born June 29, 1921, in Willard, Ohio, to John and Mary (Sarchis) Grama.

He married Joanna F. (Simon) Richmond on July 13, 1947, in Willard, Ohio. She preceded him in death on March 24, 1993.

He married Mary Barcus (Weeks) on June 24, 1995, in Auburn. She survives.

Also surviving are three sons and daughters-in-law, Jim and Sandy Richmond of Garrett, Michael and Susan Barcus of Mechanicsville, Va., and Mark and Nancy Jo Barcus of Columbia, S.C.; a son-in-law, Craig Gilliland of Oakland, Calif.; several grandchildren, several great-grandchildren and several great-great-grandchildren.

A daughter, Cathy Gilliland, and a brother, Thomas Grama, preceded him in death.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Garrett, with Father Ted Uwakwe officiating. Burial will be at a later date in Calvary Cemetery, Garrett.

Calling will be Tuesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, and Wednesday from 10-11 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to a charity of the donor's choice.

Condolences may be sent online at www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

## Colton Becker

TOPEKA — Colton James Becker, 23, of Topeka died Saturday, July 28, 2007, at his residence.

Mr. Becker

He was a lifetime Topeka area resident and worked at Bob Evans Restaurant in Auburn the past eight months. He was a member of Community Fellowship in Topeka.

On June 7, 1984, he was born in LaGrange to Mike and Jeanne (Snyder) Becker. They survive in Topeka.

Also surviving are a sister Caitlin Becker of Topeka; a brother William Becker of Topeka; maternal grandparents Clarence and Marlene Campbell of Topeka; paternal grandparents, Donald and Mary Becker of Danville, N.H.; maternal great-grandmother, Mildred Smith of Topeka; and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Young Family Funeral Home, Wolcottville Chapel, with Pastor Lynn Stutzman of Community Fellowship officiating. Burial will be in Eden Cemetery, Topeka.

Calling will be from 4 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Condolences may be sent online to the family at www.youngfamilyfuneral-home.com.

## Vincent Miller

AUBURN — Vincent W. Miller, 94, of Auburn died Sunday, July 29, 2007, following a brief illness

Mr. Miller

Mr. Miller was born Feb. 17, 1913, in Logansport. He retired from Borg-Warner Corp. in Muncie in 1978. From 1952-78, he worked as a tool designer and later as a sales executive and pilot for Borg-Warner Corp. in Auburn, transferring to Muncie in 1969.

He lived in Muncie after his retirement and returned to Auburn in 1993.

Mr. Miller was a pilot for the Auburn Clutch Co. in the early 1940s and was a former employee of International Harvester in Fort Wayne. He also worked as a self-employed mechanic in Auburn in the 1940s.

A pilot since 1932, he was a longtime pilot and flight instructor in Auburn and Fort Wayne. He was a member of several fraternal flying groups, including the Quiet Birdmen of America (QBs), Silver Wings and the OX5 Aviation Pioneers. During World War II, he was a member of the Indiana Civil Air Patrol.

He also was a Past Exalted Ruler of the Garrett Elks Lodge and a member of the Auburn Police Reserve, Moose lodges in Auburn and Muncie and the Knights of Columbus in Muncie.

Surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Mary Ann and Dennis Ketzenberger of Auburn and Kay and Thomas Dimmich, also of Auburn; two sons and daughters-in-law, Bill and Lisa Miller of Muncie and Tony and Nina Miller of Indianapolis; 14 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 55 years, Margaret Louise (Johnson) Miller, who died in 1994; a daughter, Kathryn J. Woodcox of Auburn, who died in 1978; his parents, William A. and Cecilia (Rees) Miller; one brother, Ellis Miller; and one sister, Helen Miller.

Services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. in Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 500 E. Seventh St., Auburn. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Friends may call Tuesday from 4-8 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn and Wednesday from 10-11 a.m. at the church. A rosary service will begin at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to St. Martin's Health Care of Garrett.

## Florence Carmichael

KENDALLVILLE — Florence Janice Carmichael, 70, of Kendallville died Wednesday, Aug. 1, 2007, at Kendallville Manor Health Care Center, Kendallville.

She was a certified nursing assistant for eight years at the Lutheran Home in Kendallville and 12 years at Kendallville Manor Health Care Center. She retired in 2000.

Mrs. Carmichael loved to go to garage sales, spending time with her family and grandchildren, and enjoyed her dog Snuggles. She also loved lilacs, cooking, taking care of other people and collecting teddy bears.

In Three Oaks, Mich., she was born to John E. and Elizabeth B. (Duddleson) Gearhart on March 9, 1937. She married Norman Ross Carmichael on Jan. 9, 1954, in Crown Point. He survives in Kendallville.

Also surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, John Bryan and Deanna Carmichael of Avilla, and Scott Carmichael of Kendallville; four grandchildren, Nicole and Tavis Hertel of Fort Wayne, Katie Carmichael of Waterloo and Cody Carmichael and Chris Carmichael, both of Kendallville; three stepgrandsons, Ben and Derek Tuffley, both of Kendallville, and Kyle Tuffley and his wife, Carolyn, of Fort Wayne; two brothers and a sister-in-law, Lloyd and Laura Gearhart of Three Oaks, Mich., and George Gearhart of Rolling Prairie; five sisters and five brothers-in-law, Louise and Cecil Ahmsteadt of Loveland, Colo., Sharon and Jim Feirick of Humbolt, Tenn., Nancy and Larry Darling of Rolling Prairie, Marlene and George Nelson of Statesville, N.C., and Mary Lou and George Bladecki of Rolling Prairie.

Her parents, sisters Phyllis Kothe and Ellen Pearson, and a stepgrandson in 1992, Travis Tuffley, preceded her in death.

Services will be at 3 p.m. Friday at Hite Funeral Home, Kendallville, with the Rev. Paul B. Griebel officiating.

Calling will be from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be made to the family in care of Hite Funeral Home.

Condolences may be sent online to www.hitefuneralhome.com.

## Floyd Fetter

GARRETT — Floyd A. Fetter, 86, of Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla and a former lifetime Garrett resident, died Thursday, Aug. 2, 2007, at 9:32 a.m. at Parkview Noble Hospital in Kendallville.

Mr. Fetter

Mr. Fetter worked in the smokehouse for Peter Eckrich Meats in Fort Wayne for 30 years, retiring in 1981. He worked on the B&O Railroad before entering the military service. He was a World War II veteran of the U.S. Army, serving with the 728th Railroad Division. He was discharged Dec. 5, 1945.

He was a lifetime member of St. Joseph Catholic Church and the Rosary Society in Garrett. He was a life member of the Garrett Eagles and American Legion Post 178 in Garrett, serving as past commander. He was a past Grand Knight of Knights of Columbus Council 1790 and a past Faithful Navigator of the Anthony Wayne Assembly, Fort Wayne. He was a charter member of the Mother Teresa 4th degree Assembly 2581 in Garrett, a member of the Garrett Alumni Association, the Garrett Lions Club, Historical Society and a board member of the Garrett Community Center. He was very active in the Boy Scout program and was a former co-owner of Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett.

He was born Nov. 23, 1920, in Garrett, to John J. and Mary B. (Foulk) Fetter.

He met Marjorie M. Kutchey in May 1946 and married her Nov. 28, 1946, in Lansing, Mich. She preceded him in death.

Surviving are three daughters and two sons-in-law, Connie Myers of Garrett, Anita and Steve Tullis of Corunna and Tina and Tom Drzewiecki of Garrett; three sons and daughters-in-law, Ron and Betty Fetter of Sealy, Texas, Bill and Star Fetter of Kendallville and John and Anne Fetter of Goshen; 10 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a grandson, Mark A. Myers, a brother, Edward Fetter, and five sisters, Coletta Wyss, Catherine Fetter, Sister Anna Rita Fetter, Mary Frances and Bernadine Fetter.

Services will be Monday at 11 a.m. in St. Joseph Catholic Church of Garrett, with Father Daniel Leeuw officiating. Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery of Garrett.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-8 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, and Monday from 10-11 a.m. at the church.

A rosary service will take place Sunday at 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to St. Joseph School, the Garrett post of the American Legion, the Garrett Community YMCA, Provena Sacred Heart Home, the Garrett Lions Club, or a charity of the donor's choice.

To send condolences or sign an online register book, visit www.thomasfuneral-home.org.

## Tony Runion Jr.

AUBURN — Tony Runion Jr., 85, of Auburn, died Thursday, Aug. 2, 2007, at Regency Place of Fort Wayne.

Mr, Runion worked in the receiving department for Zollner Corp. in Fort Wayne for 38 years, retiring in 1978.

He served in the U.S. Army from April 21, 1944, to Oct. 9, 1945, and was a prisoner of war in Germany. He received a bronze star and two battle stars.

He was a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Zollner Quarter Century Club, the Garrett posts of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Auburn Disabled American Veterans and American Ex-Prisoners of War.

He was born Sept. 25, 1921, in Garrett, to Tony Runion Sr. and Margaret (Bogner) Runion.

He married Willadine Gerbers on Oct. 15, 1950, in Woodburn. She survives in rural Auburn.

Also surviving are a son, Duane Runion of Fort Wayne; a daughter, Delana Kantzer of Fort Wayne; a brother, Norman Runion of Garrett; and a sister, Opal Wisel of Fort Wayne.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Adrian Runion and Everett Runion.

Services will be Saturday at 2 p.m. in Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Stephen Kummernuss officiating. Burial will be in Cedar Creek Cemetery of Garrett, with graveside military services conducted by the Garrett post of the American Legion.

Calling will be Saturday from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to St. Mark's Lutheran Church or the Garrett post of the American Legion.

## Richard Tierney

CHURUBUSCO — Richard T. Tierney, 78, a former resident of Wappes Road in rural Churubusco and also of Wheatfield Lane in Churubusco, died early Thursday morning, Aug. 2, 2007, in The Oaks Care Center, Columbia City, where he had been a patient for three months.

Mr. Tierney

Mr. Tierney was employed at Tokheim Corp. in Fort Wayne, retiring in 1984 after 40 years of service. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II.

He lived in the Allen County area for most of his life and was a graduate of Central High School in Fort Wayne.

He was a member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Ege, its Holy Name Society, the Garrett Knights of Columbus 1790 and the Tokheim Veterans Club.

He was born Sept. 30, 1928, in Fort Wayne to Edward J. and Lucinda M. (Lobsiger) Tierney.

He married Jane L. Bragg on April 29, 1950, in Fort Wayne. She died Jan. 30, 1988.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Thomas and Linda Tierney of Bloomington and Michael and Roberta Tierney of Churubsuco; two daughters and sons-in-law, Teresa and Larry Slone of Pierceton and Kathy and Dan Clark of Spencerville; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Carolyn Richardson and Patsy and Melvin Hendricks, all of Fort Wayne; and eight grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, Edward, and a sister, Wanda.

Services will be Saturday at 4 p.m. in Sheets and Childs Funeral Home, Churubusco, with Father Danney Pinto officiating. Burial will be in the Ege Catholic Cemetery in Noble County.

Calling will be Saturday from 2-4 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Masses at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church.

Condolences may be sent to sympathy@sheetsandchilds.net.

## Ruth Brown

ALBION — Ruth Etta Brown, 91, of Albion died at 1:45 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 2, 2007, in Parkview Noble Hospital in Kendallville where she had been a patient since Monday.

Mrs. Brown

She worked on the assembly line making windings for motors at Flint & Walling in Kendallville before retiring in 1979 after 28 years of service.

She grew up in Sparta Township, then lived on the farm in Jefferson Township for 22 years before moving to Albion for two years. She then moved back to Jefferson Township for 20 years, and then to Laverna Terrace in Avilla in 1986 for 19 years.

Her family and her garden were the loves of her life.

She was a member of Asbury United Methodist Church in Albion.

In Sparta Township, Noble County, she was born to Charles Wesley and Etta Maude (Newberry) Johnson on March 16, 1916. She married Arby Don Brown on June 26, 1935, in Goshen. He preceded her in death on Nov. 4, 1984.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Donald G. and Janet Brown of Auburn; a daughter and son-in-law, Shirley and Roger Stoneburner of Albion; four grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

In addition to her husband and parents, two sons, Ronald Brown in 1958, and Johnny Brown in 1942, and 12 brothers and sisters preceded her death.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Brazzell Funeral Home, Albion, with the Rev. Brett Frymier officiating. Burial will be in Sparta Cemetery, Kimmell.

Calling will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the funeral home, 771 Trail Ridge Road.

Memorials are to Asbury United Methodist Church, Albion.

Brazzell Funeral Home, Albion, is in charge of arrangements.

# A frugal, hard-working man

## Mertz played hard, too, had a good sense of humor

BY VIV ROSSWURM
vivianr@kpcnews.net

ASHLEY — A hard-working farmer who enjoyed life, liked to help others, was fascinated with history and had a great sense of humor — that's how most people remember Lloyd W. Mertz.

Mr. Mertz, who died July 10 at the age of 93, was very active in Zion Lutheran Church, the DeKalb County Farm Bureau and the DeKalb County Historical Society.

"I knew him well," said John Martin Smith, DeKalb County's official historian. "He was always a gentleman and eager to help people. He was very interested in local history. I used to work with him on the DeKalb Historical Society, but I also saw him later, when he was a resident at a local nursing home. Lloyd always liked to talk — mostly about farming and the price of crops."

Mr. Mertz's daughter, Harriet Redman of Appleton, Wis., remembers hearing a perfect description of her father a few years ago while traveling to Tieringen, Germany, a small village where the Mertz clan lived before immigrating to the United States in the 1830s.

"There are still Mertzes living there, so we asked others in the village how they would describe Mertz family members," Redman said. "Their immediate response translated to 'hard-working and frugal.' We knew right away we had found the right Mertz clan."

Lloyd Mertz was born Sept. 3, 1913, in DeKalb County to Edward J. and Lillian (Kammerer) Mertz, as one of five children. Two brothers survive, Robert of Kendallville and Ralph of Knoxville, Tenn. Five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren also survive.

"Dad loved woodworking and fishing," said Dale Mertz, his son, who lives in Berne with his wife, Lula.

"Dad was an avid fisherman and loved to go to the smaller, unpopulated lakes in northeast Indiana and fish," Dale Mertz said. "When I was young, I often went along on fishing trips with dad and his uncle because there was a limit on bluegill. They took me along so they could increase their numbers."

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Lloyd and Helen Mertz celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on Jan. 24. Mr. Mertz, a farmer who spent his life in DeKalb County, died July 10.**

Dale and Harriet both agree one of their father's greatest attributes was his sense of humor.

"We always laughed at home," Harriet Redman said. "Dad worked hard, played hard — he was a great euchre player — and laughed often. Even in the last days of his life, he would make the nurses and staff laugh with his wit."

Lloyd Mertz liked to help others, and his good will did not stop at the county line. Lloyd and Helen Mertz were honored a few years ago after they helped establish an endowment fund to help children who have brothers and sisters with disabilities through the Fox Valley Sibling Support Network, an organization in Appleton, Wis.

Mr. Mertz lived his entire life in DeKalb County, buying a farm on C.R. 15 near Ashley in 1938 and living and farming there until 2002. He married Helen P. (Anderson) Mertz on Jan. 24, 1937, at the Zion Lutheran Church.

Everett Berryhill — who eventually bought the Mertz family farm — misses talking with his longtime friend.

"Lloyd was honest and fair and very knowledgeable of farming. His knowledge was priceless," Berryhill said. "He gave me a lot of good advice. I always enjoyed our long conversations because he was quite a historian, especially about Fairfield Township."

Mr. Mertz was active in his church and was also a member of the Lutheran International Laymen's League. According to son, Dale, he was very active in farming in general.

"He was on the board of the milk cooperative for five years and was very involved in anything having to do with dairy farming," Dale Mertz said.

After Lloyd Mertz retired, he turned the old milkhouse into a workshop and took up woodworking — a hobby he loved.

"He used a variety of wood but especially liked to work with oak and walnut," Dale Mertz said. "He made walking canes, candle holders, bowls and other items. He gave away very interesting and nice wooden pieces as gifts."

Just a few years ago, Harriet Redman and her parents went shopping in Shipshewana.

"Dad wasn't able to walk very far and was using one of the many canes he had made, and he usually sat on a bench outside the stores while we shopped," Harriet Redman remembers.

"After a half-hour or so, I went to check on him. He was talking with an Amish gentleman," Redman said.

Before the gentleman got up to leave, he agreed to buy one of Lloyd Mertz's hand-carved canes and one of his hand-turned candle holders, sight unseen.

## Michael Veit

KENDALLVILLE — Michael James Veit, 51, of Kendallville died Saturday, Aug. 4, 2007, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Veit was employed as a certified tire technician at Noble County Tire and had worked for 26 years for his father at J & M Tire in Kendallville. He took great pride in satisfying his customers.

Mr. Veit

He was a 1974 graduate of East Noble High School.

Mr. Veit enjoyed fishing, hunting and camping. He also enjoyed spending time with his family and beloved pet dog.

He was born May 8, 1956, in Kendallville to James Edward and Melda Mae (Stackhouse) Veit. His father is deceased and his mother survives in Kendallville.

Also surviving are six sisters and four brothers-in-law, Carolyn Veit of Kendallville, Becky Veit of Fort Wayne, Beverly and Greg Lower of LaGrange, Barbara and Dan Denney of Hudson, Sandra and Gary Bolen of Rome City and Rachel and Todd Hart of Auburn; three nieces, Melissa Warble, Elizabeth Denney and Dana Denney; three nephews, Christopher Lower, Andrew Hart and Wesley Bolen; his grandmother, Ruth Stackhouse of Kendallville; and several great-nieces and great-nephews.

He was also preceded in death by his maternal grandfather, Raymond Stackhouse, and paternal grandparents, Nelson and Emma Veit.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville with Pastor Mike Booher officiating. Burial will be in Lake View Cemetery. Pallbearers will be Greg Lower, Adam Warble, Chris Lower, Dan Denney, Gary Bolen and Todd Hart.

Calling will be from 4-8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home and one hour prior to services Wednesday.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society.

Condolences may be sent online to www.hitefuneralhome.com.

## Lois Mekus

DEFIANCE, Ohio — Lois G. (Fett) Baker Mekus, 77, of Defiance, Ohio died Sunday, Aug. 5, 2007, at 6:20 a.m. in Defiance Inpatient Hospice Center.

Mrs. Mekus was a member of St. Mary Catholic church in Defiance. She was a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars 3360 Auxiliary in Defiance and a member of AmVets 1991 Auxiliary, Jewell Legion Auxiliary, Defiance Eagles Auxiliary and Ladies of the Moose. She retired from Oren Elliott Co. in Edgerton, Ohio.

She was born Aug. 17, 1929, in Fort Wayne to Ammi and Alice (Moyer) Fett.

She married Richard Mekus in 1985, and he survives.

She was preceded in death by her first husband, Elmer Baker. They married in 1953, and he died in 1959.

Also surviving are five daughters and sons-in-law, Deb and Denny Penland of Auburn, Brenda and Jess Myers of Auburn, Cheri and Dan Kaiser of Butler, Jodi and Marty Cocke of Defiance, Ohio, and Tina and Chris Schmidt of Cecil, Ohio; three sons, Stanley "Kirk" Baker and his companion, Sara Willitzer, of Montpelier, Ohio, Greg and Jeanine Michael of Phoenix, Ariz., and Steve Michael of Phoenix; a sister and her husband, Chloe Ann and Larry Parker of Tremont, Miss.; 19 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; four stepgrandchildren; and four stepgreat-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by three brothers, Chuck, Jim and Neil Fett; one sister, Charlene Comber; and her parents.

Services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. at St. Mary Catholic Church in Defiance, Ohio, with Father Tim Kummerer officiating. Burial will be in St. Michael's Cemetery in Defiance.

Calling will be Tuesday from 2-8 p.m. at Lawson-Roessner Funeral Home, 1753 S. Clinton St., Defiance, with a rosary service at 7:30 p.m.

Memorials are to Defiance County Hospice or Masses.

## Bailey Geist

AUBURN — Bailey Cynthia Geist, infant daughter of Clinton M. Geist and Jill S. Crosby, both of Auburn, was stillborn Friday, Aug. 3, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Surviving are her parents; paternal grandparents Terra and Dennis Heffley of Auburn and Edward Geist of Garrett; maternal grandparents, Tammy Crosby and Charlie Decker, both of Auburn; paternal great-grandparents, Irene and Raymond Goe of Auburn, Max and Jewel Geist of Celina, Tenn., and Wava Collins of Angola; her godmother, Vanessa Heffley of Garrett; her uncles, Travis L. Crosby and his companion, Rachel King of Auburn and Chase M. Geist of Garrett; and her cousins, David Edsall and Taylor Crosby, both of Auburn.

Her maternal great-grandfather, Hagin Collins, preceded her in death in 1995.

Calling will be Tuesday from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn.

Burial will be in Corunna Cemetery.

Memorials are to the family.

## Lewis Fritz

FORT WAYNE — Lewis L. "Sonny" Fritz, 74, of Fort Wayne died Monday, Aug. 6, 2007, at his home surrounded by his family.

Mr. Fritz was a native of Hardin, Mont.

Mr. Fritz

Mr. Fritz was a gas serviceman with NIPSCO for 40 years, retiring in 1992.

He was a member of Aldersgate United Methodist Church and American Legion Post 82.

Mr. Fritz was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean conflict.

He enjoyed spending time with his family, fishing, being at the lake and traveling out West.

Survivors include his wife, Dorothy A. Fritz of Fort Wayne; his children, Linda and Tom Osborn of Winchester, Jerome Fritz of LaGrange, Karen and Scott Frederickson of Fort Wayne, and Jason and Lisa Fritz of Noblesville; grandchildren, Megan, Matthew, Rachael Osborn, Allison, Lizabeth, Victoria, Wendy and Charlie Fritz, Mitchell and Brooks Frederickson, CJ and Maggie Fritz; a great-granddaughter, Karyn Fritz; a sister, Charlyene and Roy Hall of South Milford; a niece, Royetta and Steve Wilder of Auburn; nephews, Rusty and April Hall of South Milford and Rod and Marie Hall of Albion; and a great-niece, Melissa Shepherd of South Milford.

Services will be at 11:30 a.m. Thursday at D.O. McComb & Sons Covington Knolls Funeral Home, 8325 Covington Road, Fort Wayne, with the Rev. Gordon Samra officiating. Burial will be in Greenlawn Memorial Park with military graveside honors by American Legion Post 82.

Calling will be from 5 to 9 p.m. Wednesday and one hour prior to services Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the South Milford United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 176, South Mildford. IN 46786.

## William Woods

GARRETT — William S. Woods, 61, of Garrett died Sunday, Aug. 5, 2007, at his home.

Mr. Woods was a member of the Garrett Eagles.

He was born Sept. 5, 1945, in Fort Wayne to James W. and Kathleen J. Woods. His father preceded him in death. His mother survives in Garrett.

Also surviving are a son, Clint Woods of Garrett; two daughters, Kimberly Habig of Auburn and Christina Ricketts of Waterloo; a stepdaughter, Angie of Auburn; a sister and brother-in-law, Sharon and Jim Steckley of Waterloo; one grandaughter; three nieces; and one nephew.

No services or calling will be conducted. Feller Funeral Home of Waterloo is handling arrangements.

Memorials are to the Garrett Eagles.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** *is being republished to include a photograph.*

## Lois Mekus

DEFIANCE, Ohio — Lois G. (Fett) Baker Mekus, 77, of Defiance, Ohio, died Sunday, Aug. 5, 2007, at 6:20 a.m. in Defiance Inpatient Hospice Center.

Mrs. Mekus was a member of St. Mary Catholic church in Defiance. She was a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars 3360 Auxiliary in Defiance and a member of AmVets 1991 Auxiliary, Jewell Legion Auxiliary, Defiance Eagles Auxiliary and Ladies of the Moose. She retired from Oren Elliott Co. in Edgerton, Ohio.

**Mrs. Mekus**

She was born Aug. 17, 1929, in Fort Wayne to Ammi and Alice (Moyer) Fett.

She married Richard Mekus in 1985, and he survives.

She was preceded in death by her first husband, Elmer Baker. They married in 1953, and he died in 1959.

Also surviving are five daughters and sons-in-law, Deb and Denny Penland of Auburn, Brenda and Jess Myers of Auburn, Cheri and Dan Kaiser of Butler, Jodi and Marty Cocke of Defiance, Ohio, and Tina and Chris Schmidt of Cecil, Ohio; three sons, Stanley "Kirk" Baker and his companion, Sara Willitzer, of Montpelier, Ohio, Greg and Jeanine Michael of Phoenix, Ariz., and Steve Michael of Phoenix; a sister and her husband, Chloe Ann and Larry Parker of Tremont, Miss.; 19 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; four stepgrandchildren; and four stepgreat-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by three brothers, Chuck, Jim and Neil Fett, and one sister, Charlene Comber, and her parents.

Services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. at St. Mary Catholic Church in Defiance, Ohio, with Father Tim Kummerer officiating. Burial will be in St. Michael's Cemetery in Defiance.

Calling will be today from 2-8 p.m. at Lawson-Roessner Funeral Home, 1753 S. Clinton St., Defiance, with a rosary service at 7:30 p.m.

Memorials are to Defiance County Hospice or Masses.

## Gloria Balbaugh

FORT WAYNE — Gloria R. (Middleton) Balbaugh, 76, of Fort Wayne died Sunday, Aug. 5, 2007, at her home surrounded by her family.

She graduated from Arcola High School in 1949.

Mrs. Balbaugh's joy in life came from her faith in God, love of her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and extended host of family and friends. She was a stranger to no one and found good in everyone she met.

She was born in Allen County on May 13, 1931, to Edward and Lovina (Happel) Hagan. She married Richard Middleton on Aug. 26, 1950. He died Feb. 7, 2000. She then married Maynard "Joe" Balbaugh in June 2001. He survives.

Also surviving are her husband's children, David and Anne Balbaugh, Carol and John Hansen of Milford, Mich., Jim and Linda Rowley of Jackson, Mich.; her children, Mark Middleton of Kendallville, Jay Middleton of Wolcottville, Billie Jo and Mark Warner of Hudson, Jodie and John Evans of Auburn and Connie Smith of South Bend; her grandchildren, Mike Walkup, Sarah Middleton, Adam Middleton, Sean Middleton, Jess Middleton, Josh Rupert, Brent Rupert, Amy Paul, Kristen Albert, Drew Warner, Adam Warner, Stacy Spornhauer, Stephanie Spornhauer, Kadish Evans, Mackenzie Evans, Nate Heffley, Mandy Heffley, Christopher Rooks, Diane Armstrong, Nicole Murphy, Jack Hall, Scott Hall, Devon, Phillip and Matthew; and 24 great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by her parents; a brother Sam Hagan; three sisters, Dorothy Leonard, Madeline Walsh and Viva Stout; and a grandson, Jason Heffley.

Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. Thursday at St. Vincent dePaul Catholic Church, 1502 E. Wallen Road, Fort Wayne, with Father Pius Ilechukwu officiating. Burial will be in Eel River Cemetery.

Calling will be from 2 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at D.O. McComb & Sons Pine Valley Park Funeral Home, 1320 E. Dupont Road, with a vigil at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday. Calling will also be one hour prior to services Thursday at the church.

Memorials are to Heartland Hospice, St. Vincent dePaul Catholic Church or to the donor's choice.

## Harold Miller

GARRETT — Harold A. Miller, 77, of Garrett died Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2007, at 8:09 a.m. in Lutheran Hospital at Fort Wayne.

Mr. Miller

Mr. Miller worked as an electrician at Auburn Gear for 35 years, retiring in 1994. He was in the Naval Reserves during the Korean War and had been an area resident since 1944.

He was a member of the Independent Full Gospel Church in Ashley.

He was born Dec. 23, 1929, in Goshen to Felty M. and Leona R. (Tague) Miller. They preceded him in death.

He was married to Betty Miller and later married Martha L. LaVerne on July 3, 1969. She preceded him in death in 1996.

He married Marjorie J. Iddings on Sept. 7, 1996, in Auburn. She survives in Garrett.

Also surviving are his first wife, Betty Miller of Auburn; three daughters and sons-in-law, Linda and Elmer Carnahan of Auburn, Sandra and Harold Jarnagin of Auburn and Judy and Fred Smith of Churubusco; a stepdaughter and her husband, Brenda and Ronnie Cooper of Butler; two stepsons, Michael Iddings of Turkey Lake, LaGrange, and Gary Iddings and his wife, Linda, of Pleasant Lake; a sister, Virginia Sutton of Edgerton; 16 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Donald Miller.

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. in Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett. Pastor Sam Weimer of the Independent Full Gospel Church will officiate. Burial will be in the Embrey Cemetery in rural Garrett, with military graveside services conducted by the Garrett posts of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Calling will be Thursday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. and Friday from 10-11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Independent Full Gospel Church.

To sign an online register book or send condolences, visit www.thomasfuneral-home.org.

## Charles Griffith II

ASHLEY — Charles S. Griffith II, 54, of Ashley died Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2007, at the home of his sister in Butler.

Mr. Griffith served in the U.S. Air Force and was a self-employed carpenter. He was a member of the Hamilton Fish & Game Club.

He enjoyed spending time with his beloved dog, Jesse.

He was born Sept. 18, 1952, in Fort Wayne to Charles S. and Doris "Mickey" (Miller) Griffith. They preceded him in death.

Surviving are two sisters, Rebecca Damron of Butler and Debra Johnson of Kingsford, Mich.; a brother, Marc A. Griffith of Ashley; several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Rochelle Quimby.

A memorial gathering for family and friends will be Saturday from 1-5 p.m. at the home of Rebecca Damron, 420 N. Pearl St., Butler.

H.E. Johnson & Son Funeral Home of Butler is handling arrangements.

## Mary Wolfe

WATERLOO — Mary L. Wolfe, 80, died Monday, Aug. 6, 2007, at the Laurels of DeKalb Nursing Home in Butler.

Mrs. Wolfe had been a member of the Hamilton United Methodist Church since 1955 and served on several committees, as well as being the church secretary for many years. She was an accomplished baker, sewer, gardener and homemaker.

She was born at home in Jefferson Township in Noble County on May 10, 1927, to A. Carl and Edna Mae (Addis) Wood. They preceded her in death in 1962 and 2003 respectively

Surviving are her husband, Bob, whom she married in November 1946; two sons and a daughter-in-law, John Wolfe of Fort Wayne and Jerry and Sue Wolfe of Hamilton; a daughter and son-in-law, Sue and Chuck Kristek of Fort Wayne; a grandson, Joshua A. Wolfe of Phoenix, Ariz.; five stepgrandchildren and five stepgreat-grandchildren; a brother and sister-in-law, Robert and Martha Wood of Kimmell; a sister and brother-in-law, Ruth and Howard Nedwed of Sun Valley, Calif.; a brother-in-law, Jack Study; and a sister-in-law, Hilda Wood.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Richard Wood, and a sister, Bess Study.

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. Pastor Mike Harris will officiate. Burial will be in Hamilton Cemetery.

Calling will be Thursday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. and Friday from 10-11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Campus Life or A Different Drummer Learning Center.

## Pauline Blair

BUTLER — Pauline Blair, 96, of Butler died Wednesday, Aug. 8, 2007, at Avalon Village in Ligonier.

Mrs. Blair graduated from Wolcottville High School and attended beauty school. She worked as a beautician and a nursing home assistant, and also worked at Marshall Clothing in Butler and Sarabell's Dress Shop. She loved her pets.

**Mrs. Blair**

She was born June 25, 1911, in LaGrange County to Edward and Florence (Smith) Sears.

She married Bruce E. Blair on Nov. 24, 1932, in Newville. He died Oct. 16, 1995.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Don and Freda Blair of Angola and Alan and Vickie Blair of Sumpter, S.C.; a daughter and son-in-law, Joyce and Raymond Collet of Ligonier; eight grandsons and their wives, Ed and Sherri Blair of Marion, Va., Stan Collet of Ligonier, Steve and Sandra Collet of Beebe, Ark., Bruce and Teresa Collet of Arlington, Va., Stuart Collet of Huntington, David and Judy Blair of Rapid City, S.D., Daren and Julie Blair of Butler, and Rodney and Trish Blair of Butler; four granddaughters and their husbands, Jenny and David Lovelace of Grand Rapids, Mich., Debra Bates of Butler, Julie and Rick Richmond of Hamilton, and Courtney McDuffy of Sumpter, S.C.; 21 great-grandchildren; and four great-great grandchildren.

She also was preceded in death by her parents; a brother, Floyd Sears; and a grandson, Kevin Edelen.

Services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. at H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, 212 N. Broadway, Butler. Burial will be in Butler Cemetery.

Calling will be Friday from 4-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to a charity of the donor's choice.

Condolences may be left online at www.hejohnsonfh.com.

## Ruth Duchow

GARRETT — Ruth A. Duchow, 92, formerly of Garrett, died Thursday, Aug. 9, 2007, at 8:40 a.m. at Betz Nursing Home of Auburn, where she had lived since March 1997.

Mrs. Duchow

Miss Duchow worked as a cashier at the Auburn-Garrett Drive-In Theater for 10 years. She was a member of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Garrett.

She was born July 11, 1915, in Garrett to Reinhold W. and Marie (Bartels) Duchow.

Surviving are four nephews and their wives, Melvin and Dorothy Diederich of Garrett, Ronald and Marian Murphy of Rochester, Mich., Melvin and Norma Anderson and Kenneth and Shirley Anderson, all of Crown Point; and four nieces, Velma Thiel and Eleanor Csmerska, both of Griffth, Carol Minich of Crown Point and Betty Hull of Porter.

She was preceded in death by her parents; four sisters, Martha Diederich, Hulda Crabill, Elizabeth Anderson and Esther Murphy; and three brothers, Paul, Henry and Carl Duchow.

Services will be Monday at 10 a.m. in Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of Garrett with the Rev. Jeffrey Horn officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery of Garrett.

Calling will be Sunday from 3-6 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, and Monday from 9-10 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of Garrett.

## Emma Baltzell

AUBURN — Emma L. Baltzell, 84, of Auburn died Wednesday, Aug. 8, 2007, in Lockport, N.Y.

Mrs. Baltzell was a homemaker and a member of the Red Hat Society.

She was born May 16, 1923, in Bedford to Elmer and Daisy (Smith) Jordan.

Mrs. Baltzell

She married Robert J. Baltzell on July 1, 1950, in Angola. He died March 24, 1998.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Jack and Jo Mary Scott of Lockport, N.Y.; a daughter, Judy Orr of Fort Wayne; four grandchildren and their spouses, Shannon and Steven Abbott of Lockport, Kiley Scott of Albany, N.Y., Dennise Orr of New Haven, and Jeremy and Jamie Orr of Bourbonnais, Ill.; and a sister, Ruth Warden of New Haven.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a sister, Lois Luttrell.

Services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. at Calvary Chapel of Auburn. Burial will be in Riverview Cemetery at Newville.

Calling will be Tuesday from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. at Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home, 6992 S.R. 1, Spencerville.

Memorials are to the Foundation Fighting Blindness, P.O. Box 17279, Baltimore, MD 21203-7279, or the American Lung Association, 3454 Stellhorn Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46805.

## Mark Goss

INDIANAPOLIS — Mark E. Goss, 59, died Aug. 6, 2007, at his residence in Indianapolis.

He was born on July 28, 1948, to Jack and Roxena (Wagner) Goss.

Surviving are two sons, Christian Goss of Los Angeles, Calif., and Jack Goss of Auburn; a daughter, Alyssa Stackhouse of Kendallville; and a brother, Tom Goss of Columbia City.

A private memorial service will take place at a later date.

There will be no calling.

## Helene Roman

PALM HARBOR, Fla. — Helene "Windy" Roman, 91, of Palm Harbor, Fla., died Thursday, Aug. 2, 2007.

Mrs. Roman worked at J.C. Penney in Kendallville for over 37 years. Many people remember her positive attitude and friendly smile.

Roman

She was a charter member of the Women of the Moose, a member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Fraternal Order of Eagles and member of the Delta Theta Tau Sorority.

Services will be Sept. 15 at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Kendallville. A grave site mass and internment will follow at Calvary Cemetery in Garrett.

Surviving are a sister, Mari Ferlini of Hartford, Conn.; eight nieces and nephews; and many great and great-great nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death 12 years ago by her husband, John C. Roman, who was a long-time Ford dealer; a brother John Micu of Fort Wayne; and a sister, Anna Brosh of Porterville, Calif.

The family will accept donations made to the church of one's choice or favorite charity in honor of Mrs. Roman.

# She loved to make people smile

## *Ruth Meyers designed Steuben County seal*

**BY TIFFANY YODER**
tiffanyy@kpcnews.net
**AND JIM SHILANDER**
jims@kpcnews.net

ANGOLA — Ruth E. Meyers was a woman who truly loved to see people smile.

Though she was involved in many things and did much during her 78 years, her family describes her passion for painting and poetry as well as her will to go the extra mile to see people smile and laugh.

"To know her was to love her," said Bill Meyers, Ruth's husband.

Ruth's accomplishments were many. In 1990, she designed the Steuben County seal. Each part of the seal has a reason and explanation behind it. After designing it, she went on trips with friends just to see the seal on the floor.

In 1980 and 1981, she won the women's pole throwing contest in Centennial, Wyo., for its Logging Days, without ever having thrown before. She would practice while home in Indiana after her first win, and the response would be humorous.

"Indiana people would say, 'What's she doing in the yard throwing that tree around?'" said Bill.

Ruth also received the distinguished service medal from Angola Commandery No. 45, Knights Templar. Though it is a men's organization, she did many things for them and they rewarded her for it.

She was a member of the Beta Sigma Phi sorority for 52 years. Whenever she was able, Bill said, she loved to have sorority members at her house for an English tea she would prepare. With the sorority she also enjoyed working on "fantasy baskets" filled with stuffed animals, baked goods and other assorted items for children.

Ruth was also a member of the Party Line Club, Alpha Farmers Club and Ladies Auxiliary at Cameron Memorial Community Hospital for many years.

Over summers, the Meyerses would travel to Centennial, where they had built a cabin. There they attended the Centennial Valley Community Church. The church originally met in an old schoolhouse, but the Meyerses helped build the new church building with log siding.

Their devotion to the Centennial Valley Community Church stayed with them over the years. For their 50th anniversary, the Meyerses bought a pulpit to be used at the church.

After the church was built, members planned to use the spare pieces of logs from the siding as firewood. Ruth found a use for it by painting the spare pieces and giving them to the ladies of the church to decorate with so everyone could have a piece of the church.

She loved painting, and Bill said she could have made some good money with it. However, Ruth wanted to make art that everyone could afford to own and enjoy as their own.

Some of her paintings were sold to Pokagon State Park, Yellowstone, the Grand Canyon and a county park from New Jersey that admired her work. She painted not only on wood, but also on leather bookmarks and tin cans she flattened in a special way.

"You wouldn't believe it was a tin can until you turned it over to hang it," said Bill.

Her love for making people happy carried beyond her art. Ruth made sure to put a smile on people's faces whenever she could.

On Christmas, Ruth and her husband would take turns playing Santa Claus. One would dress in a Santa suit then knock on the doors of friends and neighbors, bringing apples, popcorn balls and candy canes for the children.

Ruth enjoyed baking wedding cakes, and would always give the newlyweds a picnic basket full of treats. One time, she removed the labels from all the canned food she put in a basket and the newlyweds had to shake the cans to try to determine what was in them. The couple had a sweet treat one morning.

"Did you ever get ready to eat a hearty breakfast only to open a can of Hershey's syrup as the main course?" asked Bill, as he recalled the event with a smile.

Ruth once baked cupcakes for a group, only to put pearl onions inside some of the cupcakes.

"It was always in fun," said Bill. "She never tried to hurt anyone."

The Meyerses' daughter, Cheryl Vanderwood, remembered a special April Fool's Day when she was in the fourth grade. Vanderwood's birthday was in August, and she never got to have a school birthday party. That day, Ruth changed things for her daughter.

"Into the classroom comes my mother, loaded with cupcakes, Kool-Aid and everything needed for a birthday party," she said. "What a great surprise."

Those surprises continued into her teen years when she began dating. When Vanderwood brought home a boyfriend to meet the parents, Ruth would offer him a sandwich. She said with three girls in the house, they quickly learned if they wanted to keep a boyfriend, they were not to let their mother make him a sandwich under any circumstances.

"She would start with two slices of bread, then hit the refrigerator. That sandwich could have cheese, lunch meat, a slice of pie, cottage cheese, jam or jelly, left over whatever from previous meals — you get the idea," Vanderwood said. "And that was the last we ever saw of that particular young man."

In the wake of her passing, Ruth's family and friends have remembered fondly her love and kindness. Daughter Debra Meyers of Saginaw, Mich., said only 27 hours after her passing a friend had e-mailed his condolences from Iraq.

"She loved people. She loved life," said Bill. "It was 58 of the best years of my life."

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** *is being republished to list additional surviving relatives.*

## Emma Baltzell

AUBURN — Emma L. Baltzell, 84, of Auburn died Wednesday, Aug. 8, 2007, in Lockport, N.Y.

Mrs. Baltzell

She was a homemaker and a member of the Red Hat Society.

She was born May 16, 1923, in Bedford to Elmer and Daisy (Smith) Jordan.

She married Robert J. Baltzell on July 1, 1950, in Angola. He died March 24, 1998.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Jack and Jo Mary Scott of Lockport, N.Y.; a daughter, Judy Orr of Fort Wayne; four grandchildren and their spouses, Shannon and Steven Abbott of Lockport, Kiley Scott of Albany, N.Y., Dennise Orr of New Haven, and Jeremy and Jamie Orr of Bourbonnais, Ill.; and a sister, Ruth Warden of New Haven; and two great-grandchildren, Madison Abbott and Elizabeth Abbott.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a sister, Lois Luttrell.

Services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. at Calvary Chapel of Auburn. Burial will be in Riverview Cemetery at Newville.

Calling will be Tuesday from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. at Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home, Spencerville.

Memorials are to the Foundation Fighting Blindness, P.O. Box 17279, Baltimore, MD 21203-7279, or the American Lung Association, 3454 Stellhorn Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46805.

## Mary Lou Wisler

SPENCERVILLE — Mary Lou Wisler, 65, of rural Spencerville died Saturday morning, Aug. 11, 2007, at her home.

She received her Bachelor of Education degree from Manchester College and owned and operated the Shades of Country Antique Store in Leo.

Mrs. Wisler

She was born Sept. 6, 1941, in Fort Wayne to Ezra David and Ethel Pearl Klopfenstein, who are both deceased.

She married Neal Hamilton Wisler on July 26, 1963. in Fort Wayne. He survives in Spencerville.

Also surviving are two daughters, Julie Anne Starkey and Susan Lee Schowe, both of Auburn; a son, Basil David Glenn Wisler of Grabill; and three granddaughters, Cecilia Anne Schowe, Madeline Sue Schowe and Olivia Mae Schowe.

Services will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. at Grabill Missionary Church in Grabill with Pastor Ray Harrison officiating. Burial will be in Leo Memorial Park Cemetery.

Calling will be Monday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. and Tuesday from 10-11 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to Cancer Services of Allen County, 2925 E. State Blvd., Fort Wayne, IN 46805.

Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home in Spencerville is handling funeral arrangements.

## Mildred Brown

AUBURN — Mildred Kathryn Brown, 87, died Saturday, Aug. 11, 2007, at her home.

Mrs. Brown was a homemaker.

Mrs. Brown

She was born July 2, 1920, in Jackson Township of DeKalb County to LeRoy Clay and Eva Pearl (Warstler) Rinehold. They preceded her in death.

On July 3, 1938, she married Harold D. Brown. He died Jan. 7, 2002.

Surviving are seven sons and three daughters and their spouses, David and Gayle Brown, Debra Brown and Dennis and Phyllis Brown, all of Auburn, G. William "Bill" and Darlene Tucker, Dorsey and Patricia Brown and Dexter and Sandy Brown, all of Waterloo, Deanna Hart of Kendallville, Darold and Yvonne Brown of Garrett, Daniel and Balinda Brown of Butler and Douglas Brown of Lehigh Acres Fla.; 45 grandchildren, 59 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by three brothers and two sisters.

Services will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. in Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with Pastor Yvonne Brown officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Monday from 2-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to World Harvest Family Worship Center of Garrett or Huntertown United Methodist Women.

*The following obituary is being republished to correct a typographical error.*

## Mary Lou Wisler

SPENCERVILLE — Mary Lou Wisler, 65, of rural Spencerville died Saturday morning, Aug. 11, 2007, at her home.

She received her Bachelor of Education degree from Manchester College and owned and operated the Shades of Country Antique Store in Leo.

She was born Sept. 6, 1941, in Fort Wayne to Ezra David and Ethel Pearl Klopfenstein, who are both deceased.

Mrs. Wisler

She married Neil Hamilton Wisler on July 26, 1963, in Fort Wayne. He survives in Spencerville.

Also surviving are two daughters, Julie Anne Starkey and Susan Lee Schowe, both of Auburn; a son, Basil David Glenn Wisler of Grabill; and three granddaughters, Cecilia Anne Schowe, Madeline Sue Schowe and Olivia Mae Schowe.

Services will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. at Grabill Missionary Church in Grabill with Pastor Ray Harrison officiating. Burial will be in Leo Memorial Park Cemetery.

Calling will be today from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. and Tuesday from 10-11 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to Cancer Services of Allen County, 2925 E. State Blvd., Fort Wayne, IN 46805.

Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home in Spencerville is handling funeral arrangements.

## Teresa Parker

AUBURN — Teresa M. Parker, 89, died Sunday, Aug. 12, 2007, at Miller's Merry Manor nursing home in Garrett.

Mrs. Parker

Mrs. Parker worked as a medical staff secretary and administrative secretary for both Methodist and Parkview hospitals in Fort Wayne. She worked as administrative assistant at Seaside Navy Hospital and then at Long Beach Memorial Hospital. She also worked at Pacifica Hospital in Huntington Beach, Calif.

She attended both the Waterloo United Methodist Church and St. Michael's Catholic Church.

Mrs. Parker was a member of the National & Executive Secretary Association, Altrusa Club, Minerva Club, Franklin Friends Extension Club and the Indiana Farm Bureau. She was a member of the Heimach Center board of directors and served on its finance committee.

She was born Aug. 14, 1917, in Avilla to Herman D. and Mary Ann (Lemper) Lash.

On Sept. 29, 1951, in Fort Wayne, she married Jack B. Parker. He survives.

Also surviving are a brother, Louis Lash of Avilla; three sisters, Phyllis Heffner of Elkhart, Mary Jean Ley of Garrett and Ruth Alice Marti of Mattoon, Ill.; and more than 50 nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, great-great-nieces and great-great-nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; three brothers, Harold, Albert and John Lash; and two sisters, Evelyn Evers and Joan E. Lash.

There will be no service and no calling.

Burial will be in St. Mary's Cemetery of Avilla at a later date.

## LeRoy McClellan

ASHLEY — LeRoy Ivan McClellan, 89, of Ashley died Sunday, Aug. 12, 2007, at his home.

He was a retired carpenter.

He was born in Auburn on July 22, 1918, to John and Leona (Geisinger) McClellan. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Berniece I. (Baird) McClellan in 1966, and his second wife, Ethel (Henderson) McClellan in 1995.

He is survived by three sons and daughters-in-law, James and Glenda McClellan of Ashley, William and Marilyn McClellan of Hudson, and Theodore and Linda McClellan of Great Falls, Mont.; a brother and sister-in-law, John Jr. and Ella McClellan of Auburn; a sister, Irene Maxwell of Jacksonville, Fla.; and two stepdaughters, Gale Spence of Angola and Joan Hanna of Alabama; seven grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

He was also preceded in death by a son, Baby Lee; and a brother, DeWayne.

Graveside services will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Roselawn Cemetery in Auburn, with his grandson, the Rev. Theodore McClellan II officiating.

There is no calling.

Johnson Funeral Home in Hudson is in charge of services.

## Wayne Martin Jr.

GARRETT — Wayne Martin Jr., 65, of Garrett died Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2007, at his summer home at Indian Springs Campground in Garrett.

Mr. Martin

He was employed in the past with National Steel and Mining Co. of Wayland, Ky., and enjoyed gardening and fishing, cutting and welding and his camping friends at Indian Springs Campground.

He and his wife spent their winters in Umatilla, Fla.

Mr. Martin was born in Salisbury Branch, Ky., on Oct. 14, 1941, to Wayne and Bertha (Turner) Martin. He married Juliet Suzanne Campbell on Oct. 30, 1987, in Clintwood, Va. She survives in Garrett.

Also surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Ricky Martin of Dema, Ky., and Nicholas and Shannon Martin of Umatilla, Fla.; two daughters and sons-in-law, Vicki and Matt Haines of Kendallville and Judy and Pat Moore of Wolcottville; four grandchildren, Travis, Tinika, Malory and Tyler; three sisters and brothers-in-law, Shelby and Charlie Cassel of York Haven, Pa., Mabel and Melvin Hall of Prestonsburg, Ky., and Brenda Faye and Robert Jacobs of Pippa Passes, Ky.; two brothers, Columbus and Vickie Martin of Bevinsville, Ky., and Ronald and Sylvia Martin of Dema, Ky.; and a brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Jack and Carolyn Campbell of Corunna.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Charles "Bear" Martin.

Services will be at 7 p.m. Friday at Hite Funeral Home with the Rev. Al Wingfield officiating. Burial will be later in Kentucky.

Calling will be from 2-7 p.m. Friday at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville.

View a video tribute after Friday or send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com

## Earl Whysong

HAMILTON — Earl J. Whysong, 76, of Hamilton died Monday, Aug. 13, 2007, at Lakeland Nursing Home in Angola.

Mr. Whysong worked for Favourite Farms. He was a U.S. Army veteran.

He loved fishing, his family, playing cards and farming.

He was born Aug. 31, 1930, in Angola to Ford and Jennie (Moore) Whysong.

He is survived by a sister, Kathryn Rowe of Garrett; four nieces, Kathryn Crowl and Grace Shumaker of Waterloo, Debra Whysong of Hamilton, and Sharon Zeigler of Garrett; and three nephews, Robert Fenters of Waterloo, Howard Curtland of Hudson and Donald Curtland of Garrett.

He was preceded in death by his parents and six brothers and sisters.

Services will be at noon Friday at Johnson Funeral Home in Hudson, with the Rev. Craig Burkholder officiating. Burial will be in Trinity Cemetery with the Orland American Legion Post No. 423 conducting military services.

Calling will be from 6-8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

## Mary Christlieb

WATERLOO — Mary "Leone" Christlieb, 87, of Waterloo died Monday, Aug. 13, 2007, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mrs. Christlieb was a homemaker. She was a 50-year member of the Eastern Star and loved sewing, painting and gardening.

She was born Jan. 5, 1920, in Auburn to Earl and Mary (Weeks) Carper.

She married Guy R. Christlieb in June 1940, and he preceded her in death in April 1968.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Mary Lou and Delbert Payton of Waterloo; three brothers and sisters-in-law, Howard and Maxine Carper of Auburn, John and Vada Carper of Waterloo and Art and Gloria Carper of Pleasant Lake; a sister, Harriet Myers of Auburn; five grandchildren and their spouses, Mark Payton, Roxanne Myers, Todd and Tina Payton, Tim Eberly and Melissa and Jamie Ketzenberger; and six great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, a daughter, Susan Eberly, and a sister, Martelle Rhoads.

Services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. Al Black officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Friday from 5-8 p.m. at the funeral home. An Eastern Star service will be conducted Friday at 8 p.m. in the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Alzheimer's Association or the American Cancer Society.

## Dorothy Wolfe

NEW HAVEN — Dorothy M. Wolfe, 81, of New Haven and formerly of Monroeville, died Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2007, at the Village of Heritage.

Mrs. Wolfe

Born in Monroeville, she was the daughter of Eugene and Esther Gerardot.

She was a member of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in New Haven and the Local 57 UAW Retirees. She retired from International Harvester in 1972 after 30 years.

She was an active volunteer through the years with hospice, the Red Cross, St. Mary's Soup Kitchen, and the Democratic Party. She was honored by News Channel 15 as Volunteer of the Year in 1992.

Surviving are her stepchildren, Jim B. Wolfe and his wife, Ann, of Columbia City, Molly Vakerics of Oro Valley, Ariz. and Mary Ellen Crawford of Auburn; a sister, Earlene Radabaugh of Monroeville; a sister-in-law, Roberta Gerardot of Monroeville; four stepgrandchildren; eight stepgreat-grandchildren; and several stepgreat-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Earl, in 1985; brother, Robert Gerardot; and a niece and nephew.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Friday in St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 943 Powers, New Haven, with calling one hour before. Burial will be in the I.O.O.F. Cemetery, New Haven.

Calling also will be Thursday from 1-4 and 6-8 p.m. at E. Harper & Son Funeral Home, 740 Indiana 930 East, New Haven, with a rosary service at 3:30 p.m.

Memorials are to Masses, Village of Heritage, or Family Hospice of North East Indiana.

## Betty Arnold

ROME CITY — Betty J. Arnold, 83, of Rome City died at 12:16 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2007, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Arnold

Mrs. Arnold was a lifetime area resident.

She had been employed by Berhalter-Hutchins Funeral Home in Kendallville for many years and had worked at Fischer's Pharmacy in Kendallville.

Mrs. Arnold was a member of Brimfield United Methodist Church and American Legion Auxiliary Unit of Post 381 in Rome City where she was a past president.

She loved spending time with her grandchildren and her dog, Sammy. She enjoyed living on Sylvan Lake.

She was born Nov. 15, 1923, in Stroh to Paul "Jake" and Dora May (Pierson) Rowlison. She married Homer Arnold on May 19, 1944, in Mountain Home, Idaho. He died May 21, 1979.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Sam and Myrna Arnold of Brimfield and Jack and Mary Arnold of Rome City; three sisters and a brother-in-law, Cora and Willis Tuttle of Auburn, Catherine Kaufman of Angola and Joan Hueling of Mishawaka; a brother and sister-in-law, Jay and Donnabelle Rowlison of Kendallville; five grandchildren, Chad P. Arnold and Brice R. Arnold, both of Brimfield, Shelly VanGorder of Avilla, James Lee Arnold of Muncie and Jason Arnold of South Whitley; 12 great-grandchildren, Alexander Arnold, Miranda Arnold, Jared Arnold, Audrey Grove, Derek Grove, Ricky Duty, Amanda Duty, Jake VanGorder, Jessica Arnold, Dylan Arnold, Trey Arnold and Haylee Arnold.

She was also preceded in death by her parents; a brother, Donald Rowlison; and four sisters, Geraldine Leonhardt, Pauline Rowlison, Donna Jean Rowlison and Nancy Kay Rowlison.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday at Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, with the Rev. Omer Nisley of Brimfield United Methodist Church officiating. Burial will be in Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville. Pallbearers will be Chad Arnold, Brice Arnold, James Arnold, Ricky Duty, David VanGorder and Jason Arnold.

Calling will be from 4-8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Brimfield United Methodist Church, Rome City Fire Department, Brimfield Lions Club, Kidney Foundation or the American Heart Association.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** *is being reprinted to correct information.*

## Betty Arnold

ROME CITY — Betty J. Arnold, 83, of Rome City died at 12:16 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2007, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

**Mrs. Arnold**

Mrs. Arnold was a lifetime area resident.

She had been employed by Berhalter-Hutchins Funeral Home in Kendallville for many years and had worked at Fischer's Pharmacy in Kendallville.

Mrs. Arnold was a member of Brimfield United Methodist Church and American Legion Auxiliary Unit of Post 381 in Rome City where she was a past president.

She loved spending time with her grandchildren and her dog, Sammy. She enjoyed living on Sylvan Lake and loved to cook.

She was born Nov. 15, 1923, in Stroh to Paul "Jake" and Dora May (Pierson) Rowlison. She married Homer Arnold on May 19, 1944, in Mountain Home, Idaho. He died May 21, 1979.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Sam and Myrna Arnold of Brimfield and Jack and Mary Arnold of Rome City; three sisters and two brothers-in-law, Cora and Willis Tuttle of Auburn, Catherine Kaufman of Angola and Joan and Richard Huling of Mishawaka; a brother and sister-in-law, Jay and Donnabelle Rowlison of Kendallville; five grandchildren, Chad P. Arnold and Brice R. Arnold, both of Brimfield, Shelly VanGorder of Avilla, James Lee Arnold of Muncie and Jason Arnold of South Whitley; and 12 great-grandchildren, Alexander Arnold, Miranda Arnold, Jared Arnold, Audrey Grove, Derek Grove, Ricky Duty, Amanda Duty, Jake VanGorder, Jessica Arnold, Dylan Arnold, Trey Arnold and Haylee Arnold.

She was also preceded in death by her parents; a brother, Donald Rowlison; and four sisters, Geraldine Leonhardt, Pauline Rowlison, Donna Jean Rowlison and Nancy Kay Rowlison.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday at Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, with the Rev. Omer Nisley of Brimfield United Methodist Church officiating. Burial will be in Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville. Pallbearers will be Chad Arnold, Brice Arnold, James Arnold, Ricky Duty, David VanGorder and Jason Arnold.

Calling will be from 4-8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Brimfield United Methodist Church, Rome City Fire Department, Brimfield Lions Club, Kidney Foundation or the American Heart Association.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.youngfamilyfuneral-home.com.

## Donald Bowman

AUBURN — Donald Lee Bowman, 74, died this morning at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mr. Bowman worked as a cook for Souder Hospital in Auburn for 25 years and then for Betz Nursing Home for 31 years, retiring in 2006. He was a member of Cornerstone Church in Auburn.

He loved bingo, bowling, playing cards with his family and gambling.

He was born April 17, 1933, in Auburn to Duane and Florede V. (Pence) Bowman.

Surviving are two sisters, Shirley Baird of Auburn and Barbara Buttermore of Waterloo; two brothers, Jerry Bowman of Auburn and Ronald Clark of Auburn; and several nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Duane Bowman and Buddy Marvin Bowman.

Services will be Saturday at 10 a.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery in rural Corunna.

Calling will be Friday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Children First Center of Auburn.

## Iver Johnson

AUBURN — Iver J. Johnson, 72, of Auburn and formerly of Tacoma, Wash., died Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Johnson worked on fishing boats as a professional fisherman.

He was born May 18, 1935, in Seldovia, Wash., to Iver Johnson Sr. and Nancy (Kvasnikoff) Johnson.

Surviving are a brother and sister-in-law, Alan and Kathy Johnson of Auburn; a niece, Jessica Jordan; and two great-nephews, Skylar and Gavin Jordan.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Wilma Moore.

There will be no calling or services. Burial will be in Roselawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Memorials may be directed to Feller & Clark Funeral Home of Auburn for funeral expenses.

## Betty Dyer

GARRETT — Betty Jean Dyer, 77, of Garrett died Thursday, Aug. 16, 2007.

She was retired from Rieke Corp. and was a member of the Auburn Church of the Nazarene.

Her childhood was spent in Auburn with summers at Golden Lake, where she played, learned to fish and enjoyed catching bluegill.

She was interested in nature and enjoyed watching the hummingbirds she attracted at her cottage. In the winter months, she crafted gifts for family and friends and enjoyed making caramel popcorn.

She was born Dec. 25, 1929, the first child of Harry and Esther Blevins. They preceded her in death.

Surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Cindy and Paul Boedeker of Fremont and Tina and Alan Palmer of Wabash; a son and daughter-in-law, Tony and Jody Dyer of Angola; eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren; three sisters and two brothers-in-law, Helen Sanders of Auburn, Becky and Bill Meyers of Angola and Rosie and Bob Vollmer of Fort Wayne; and a brother and sister-in-law, Chuck and Shirley Blevins of Garrett.

Services will be Monday at 10 a.m. at the Auburn Church of the Nazarene, 2301 N. Main St., with Pastor Dan White officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-6 p.m. at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn.

Memorials are to the Susan B. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

## Maurice Woodring

FREMONT — Maurice Woodring, 80, of Fremont and formerly of Auburn, died Thursday, Aug. 16, 2007, in St. Joseph Hospital, Fort Wayne.

He was retired from General Electric in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Woodring was a U.S. Navy veteran and moved to Fremont from Auburn.

On June 16, 1927, in Allen County, he was born to Edward and Janet (Smith) Woodring. He married Patricia Harris on March 4, 1948, in Spencerville. She survives.

Also surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Jack and Lana Woodring, and Gene Woodring, all of Fremont; three grandchildren and a spouse, Corrie and Elton Owsley of Waterloo, Keri Woodring of Countryside, Ill., and Ashley Woodring of Fremont; two great-grandchildren, Samantha and Spencer Owsley; a brother, Donald Woodring of New Haven; and a sister, Marie Treesh of Auburn.

In addition to his parents, a brother, Jerry Woodring, preceded him in death.

Graveside services will be at 1 p.m. Monday at Lakeside Cemetery, Fremont, with the Rev. Keith Olson officiating.

There is no calling.

Memorials are to the Fremont Fire Department.

Condolences may be sent online to www.beamsfuneralhome.com.

Beams Funeral Home, Fremont, is in charge of arrangements.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** *is being reprinted to list additional relatives.*

## Donald Bowman

AUBURN — Donald Lee Bowman, 74, died Thursday morning, Aug. 16, 2007, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mr. Bowman worked as a cook for Souder Hospital in Auburn for 25 years and then for Betz Nursing Home for 31 years, retiring in 2006. He was a member of Cornerstone Church in Auburn.

He loved bingo, bowling, playing cards with his family and gambling.

He was born April 17, 1933, in Auburn to Duane and Florede V. (Pence) Bowman.

Surviving are two sisters and a brother-in-law, Shirley Baird of Auburn and Barbara and Marvin Buttermore of Waterloo; three brothers and a sister-in-law, Terry Bowman and Jerry Bowman, both of Auburn and Ronald and Cheryl Clark of Auburn; and several nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews and great-great-nieces and -nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Duane Bowman and Buddy Marvin Bowman.

Services will be today at 10 a.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery in rural Corunna.

Calling was Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Children First Center of Auburn.

# Farmers' friend loved the land

BY VIV ROSSWURM
vivianr@kpcnews.net

CHURUBUSCO — When Donald Gross worked, he worked hard. And he expected everyone else to do the same. When he played, he played hard. And he made sure those around him had fun, as well.

Involved in agricultural ditching and drainage since 1952, Mr. Gross was known and well-respected by farmers throughout northeast Indiana.

Don Goss

After he died unexpectedly at the age of 74 on Aug. 9 — both of his parents had lived well into their 90s — friends, family and many farmers lined up at the funeral home, some of them waiting nearly three hours to get inside and pay their respects . Don Gross became involved with the family business, Gross Drainage, through his father, Guy Gross and his uncle, Herb Gross, when they bought a ditching machine for the family farm in 1951. Don ran the machine for two years, then went to work for J.I. Case, traveling around the country and demonstrating large farm equipment. He worked there until the company closed and then worked for the Operators and Engineers Union in Fort Wayne.

Eventually he returned to the family business, buying the farm ditching operation with a partner, Roger Nestel, in 1974. He bought Nestel's share in 1981 and operated the business for many years with his son, Todd Gross, who bought the business in 2000.

"Mr. Gross was the most skilled and talented person in the business and has been a great plus for northeast Indiana farmers," said Phil Wysong, a Noble County farmer. "Laying tile is a real art, and crucial to farming in this region that once was significantly swamp land. I learned so much from him."

"Dad was very instrumental in getting farmers to systematically drain their fields," Todd Gross said. "He was able to prove that the result would be better crop yields."

Other ditchers usually did random or spot draining, Todd Gross said, but his father always tried to sell farmers a professional, thorough and efficient drainage plan.

"He set perimeters and then drew up a plan for making the most effective use of the land," Todd Gross said. "From the beginning, he understood drainage and how it worked. People respected that."

Many farmers felt compelled to stay in the fields with ditch contractors and make sure they were doing a good job until they met Don Gross.

"He instilled confidence with his professionalism and was never wrong when it came to ditching," Todd said. "He even helped competitors who would ask for his advice."

In 1975 Don Gross became a member of the Land Improvement Contractors Association, serving as president in 1980.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Don Gross operates a drainage ditching machine with his son, Todd Gross, nearby. Starting in 1952, Mr. Gross created and installed drainage systems on farms throughout northeast Indiana through his business, Gross Drainage. He bought the family business in 1974. His son, Todd, took over in 2000. Mr. Gross continued to work until Aug. 9 when he died at the age of 74.**

His father, Guy Gross, was president in 1958-59 and Todd served as president in 2000-01.

It was at a 4-H event as a young boy that Don Gross first caught the eye of 12-year-old Marilyn Nicodemus, who attended school in Huntertown. Later, when they were in high school, Don was smitten and declared on their very first date that they would wed, Marilyn Gross recalled with a laugh.

The couple were married Sept. 20, 1953, and had four children, Teresa in 1960, Tammy in 1963, Todd in 1964 and Tracie in 1970.

Tracie has Down syndrome and is quick to brag that she was the apple of her dad's eye.

"No one else could get away with telling dad what to do, but she could," Todd said, motioning toward Tracie, who laughed and nodded in agreement.

Mr. Gross enjoyed spending time with his family, especially the grandchildren, and riding his Gold Wing motorcycle that he bought when he turned 50. Don and Marilyn Gross always made sure they took time to have a summer vacation with their family, even if they didn't go far or didn't spend a lot of money.

"One time we used a tractor pull as an excuse to vacation in Canada," Marilyn Gross said.

Today, grandson Levi Gross, 20, is employed at Gross Drainage, making tracks as the fourth generation of agricultural ditchers. Levi's dad, Todd, remembers a story that best illustrates the work ethic of their father and grandfather.

"Levi was helping ditch and sat down at the edge of a road to rest," Todd said. "Dad asked him if he was waiting for coffee and doughnuts to be delivered. Levi looked confused and said no. Then dad told him to get up and get back to work, because unless he was having coffee and doughnuts, there was no reason to quit working."

Mitch Bair, 29, of Columbia City started digging ditches for Don Gross when he was 15. He said his strong work ethic is a direct result of working for the Grosses. Bair, who is now employed as an applications specialist for a tooling company, said he learned a lot from Don Gross about working hard, workplace professionalism and how to get along with others.

In 2000, at the age of 68, Don Gross decided he wanted to take a motorcycle trip to the West Coast. He told his friend, Gary Jagger, that he was going with or without him.

"I wasn't going to let him go by himself, although I didn't really think I had the money to make such a trip," Jagger said. "That trip — we logged in 7,200 miles in 15 days — was one of the highlights of my life. I'm glad Don talked me into it."

Gross's dry wit and his trait of becoming instant friends with everyone he met made for a good time, Jagger said.

"We would go into a restaurant in almost any state and by the time we left, he was friends with all the waitresses. Don made their jobs fun," he said.

"From everyone's account, Don was not easy to work for — he demanded perfection — and I'm not sure I could have worked for him. But he played hard, too, and I was there for that," Jagger said.

"I still get a lump in my throat whenever I think of him. He was a super guy."

## Thomas Lochner

NEW ALBANY — Thomas J. Lochner, 53, of New Albany and formerly of Auburn died Friday, Aug. 17, 2007, at his home.

He was a manager for 21 years in the airline division at the United Parcel Service in Louisville, Ky.

He was a member of Jacobs Chapel United Methodist Church in New Albany and Boy Scouts of America.

He is survived by his wife, Denise Hartman Lochner; two sons and a daughter-in-law, Jacob and Angie Lochner of Cincinnati, Ohio, and Sean Lochner of New Albany; his father and mother-in-law, Glen and Ida Hartman; a brother-in-law and his wife, Tom and Jana Hartman; a sister-in-law and her husband, Teri and Bob Krafft; and several nieces and nephews.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Feller-Clark Funeral Home in Auburn. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery in Garrett.

Calling will be from 5 to 8 p.m. Monday at Kraft Funeral Service in New Albany, and from 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at Feller-Clark Funeral Home in Auburn.

Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery in Garrett.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society, Boy Scout Troop 15 in New Albany or Hospice of Southern Indiana.

*The following obituary is being re-run to provide additional information.*

## Maurice Woodring

FREMONT — Maurice Woodring, 80, of Fremont and formerly of Auburn died Thursday, Aug. 16, 2007, at St. Joseph Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Woodring was retired from General Electric in Fort Wayne. He was a U.S. Navy Veteran.

He was born in Allen County on June 16, 1927, to Edward and Janet (Smith) Woodring. He married Patricia Harris on March 4, 1948, in Spencerville. She survives.

Also surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Jack and Lana Woodring of Fremont and Gene Woodring of Auburn; three grandchildren and a spouse, Corrie and Elton Owsley of Waterloo, Keri Woodring of Countryside, Ill., and Ashley Woodring of Fremont; two great-grandchildren, Samantha and Spencer Owsley; a brother, Donald Woodring, of New Haven; and a sister, Marie Treesh, of Auburn.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Jerry Woodring.

Graveside services will be at 1 p.m. Monday at Lakeside Cemetery in Fremont, with the Rev. Keith Olson officiating.

There is no calling.

Memorials are to the Fremont Fire Department.

Beams Funeral Home in Fremont is handling arrangements.

Condolences may be sent online to www.beamsfuneralhome.com.

## Gary Hamilton

AUBURN — Gary W. Hamilton, 51, of Auburn and formerly of Kendallville died Friday, Aug. 17, 2007, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Hamilton

He was born in Blue Moon, Ky., on Feb. 16, 1956, to Raymond and Elsie (Hunter) Ousley. His mother, of Kendallville, survives.

He also is survived by a brother and sister-in-law, Billy and Terri Ousley of Morton, Ill.; and four sisters and three brothers-in-law, Garruetta Hamilton-Christian and Ron Christian of Corruna, Ruthene McDaniels of Kendallville, Mary Kay and Charles Rea of Kendallville and Phyllis and Shannon Terry of Kendallville.

He was preceded in death by his father.

Services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at Young Family Funeral Home in Kendallville, with the Rev. Joel Stanley officiating. Burial will be in Sweet Cemetery near Albion.

Calling will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

Pallbearers are Cam Rea, Joshua Morse, Charles Rea, Ottis Hunter, Keith Cleveland and Travis Bolen. Honorary pallbearers include Justin Terry, Erik Terry, Brett Terry and Ron "Bub" Christian.

Memorials are to the family.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

## Earl McPherson

AUBURN — Earl McPherson, 70 of Auburn died Friday, Aug. 17, 2007, at his home, surrounded by his family and friends.

Mr. McPherson

Mr. McPherson worked at Auburn Foundry for 31 years, retiring in 1997. He was a member of union Local 322.

He was born April 18, 1937, in Hazard, Ky.

Surviving are his wife, Charlotte D. (Schreppel) McPherson of Auburn; two sons and daughters-in-law, Earl H. and Patricia McPherson of Fort Wayne and Roland C. and (Raine) McPherson of Auburn; three daughters and two sons-in-law, Marie E. and Jim Hutchinson of Fort Wayne, Rita K. Walker of Garland, Texas, and Loretta and Gordon McFavors of Fort Wayne; three brothers, Christopher C. McPherson of Auburn, Joseph W. McPherson of Pleasant Lake and Andrew W. McPherson of LaGrange; six sisters, Velma Dell'oro of North Haven, Conn., Missouri Lou of St. Joe, Imogene Schorey of Louisiana, Betty R. Baker of Auburn, Alice F. Klinger of Auburn and Ruby C. Baker of Hamilton; 20 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by one daughter, Charlotte McPherson; four brothers, John, Tommy, Billy and Pearl McPherson; and one sister, Sara Sue.

Services will be Wednesday at 2 p.m. at McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Tuesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. and Wednesday from 1-2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to SCAN and the PSP Foundation.

## Former Indiana Sen. Allan Bloom dies

FORT WAYNE — Allan E. Bloom, 74, former president pro tempore of the Indiana Senate, died Saturday, Aug. 18, 2007, at Parkview North Hospital.

He was an attorney in Fort Wayne.

Survivors include his daughters and sons-in-law, Laura and Guy Shatto of Waterloo and Linda Bloom and Paul Sommer of New York.

Services will be Thursday at 10:30 a.m. at First Wayne Street United Methodist Church in Fort Wayne, with calling after 9:30 a.m.

Additional calling will be Wednesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Hockemeyer & Miller Funeral Home, 6131 St. Joe Road, Fort Wayne.

Burial will be in Greenlawn Memorial Park.

Memorials are to First Wayne Street United Methodist Church.

## Allen Fisher

AUBURN — Allen B. Fisher, 86, of Auburn died Sunday, Aug. 19, 2007, at Wesley Healthcare in Auburn.

Mr. Fisher worked at Auburn Printing Co. for 23 years, then worked for Rieke Corp. for 12 years, retiring in 1986.

He was a lifetime member of American Legion Post 202 in Butler. He served in the U.S. Army for three years, two of them overseas.

He was a 1941 graduate of Butler High School. He enjoyed woodworking.

He was born June 12, 1921, in Butler to Olis G. and Hilda (Cook) Fisher. They preceded him in death.

He married Dorthy P. Schmidt on June 15, 1963, in Butler. She survives in Auburn.

Also surviving is a brother, Robert Fisher of Dayton, Ohio.

Services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. The Rev. Lloyd Bickel will officiate. Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery with graveside military services by American Legion Post 202 of Butler.

Calling will be Tuesday from 2-5 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Trinity Lutheran Church of Auburn.

# Services are Thursday for political leader Allan Bloom

FORT WAYNE — Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. Thursday at First Wayne Street United Methodist Church, 300 E. Wayne St., for prominent Fort Wayne attorney and political leader Allan E. Bloom.

Mr. Bloom

Mr. Bloom, 74, a lifelong Fort Wayne resident, and former president pro tempore of the Indiana Senate, died Saturday.

He was born Oct. 16, 1932, one of three sons to A. Everett and Velma Bloom. He was a graduate of South Side High School and Valparaiso University Law School. He married the former Norma Meyer in 1954; she survives.

He served as a Republican in the Indiana Legislature from 1960 to 1970, during which time he was elected Senate Minority Leader and Senate President Pro Tempore. He was the Republican nominee for Indiana's 4th District congressional seat in 1972. He lost the race to incumbent U.S. Rep. J. Edward Roush.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his daughters and sons-in-law, Laura and Guy Shatto of Waterloo, and Linda Bloom and Paul Sommer of New York; one grandson, Jack Bloom Sommer of New York; and his brother, Louis Bloom of St. Augustine, Fla.; He was preceded in death by a brother, Bruce Bloom.

Calling is one hour before the funeral services and also from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at Hockemeyer & Miller Funeral Home, 6131 St. Joe Road. Burial will be in Greenlawn Memorial Park.

Memorials are to First Wayne Street United Methodist Church.

## Charlotte Aubry

WEST LAFAYETTE — Charlotte A. Aubrey, 89, of West Lafayette died Sunday, Aug. 19, 2007, at 12:10 a.m. at St. Elizabeth Medical Center in Lafayette.

She was born Sept. 5, 1917, in DeKalb County to the late Jay and Marie Lochner.

She previously lived in Auburn and graduated from Auburn High School and Purdue University.

He also had resided in Lima, Ohio, Logansport and Chandler, Ariz., before coming to the Lafayette and West Lafayette areas.

She was a teacher at South Whitley High School; a research chemist at Bowser Inc. in Fort Wayne, a secretary at Feng Inc. in Auburn; director of the Appleseed Ridge Girl Scout Council in Lima, Ohio; director at the Family YMCA in Logansport; and an assessor/county manager for the Northeast Area III Council on Aging.

She was a member of Grace Lutheran Church, Phi Mu fraternity, Alpha Lambda Delta, Kappa Delta Pi and the Altrussa Club.

Her hobbies were sewing, crossword puzzles, bowling, reading and watching sports on television. She enjoyed her family immensely.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Judy and Don Correll of West Lafayette; a sister, Phyllis Roop of Chandler, Ariz.; and two brothers and a sister-in-law, Jack and Lorie Lochner of Tacoma, Wash., and Richard Lochner of Paradise, Mich.; two grandchildren, Ken and Kyle Clark; and four great-grandchildren, Ben, Adelle, Alexandra and Taylor Clark.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, Robert and Donald Lochner.

A memorial service will be at a later date. SollerBaker Funeral Homes of Lafayette (www.soller-baker.com) is handling arrangements.

Memorials are to Grace Lutheran Church, 102 Buckingham Drive, Lafayette, IN 47909.

## Lawrence Kirkley

AUBURN — Lawrence R. Kirkley, 84, of Auburn and formerly of Griffith, died Friday, Aug. 17, 2007.

Mr. Kirkley was retired from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 697 with more than 40 years of service.

Surviving are three daughters and two sons-in-law, Laura and Emmett Gordon of Florida, Judy and Gary Fredrick of Griffith and Theresa and Dennis Romich of St. Joe; two sons and a daughter-in-law, James and Sharon Kirkley of Gary and John Kirkley of Schererville; nine grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and one sister and brother-in-law, Allene and James Gore of Pearson, Ga.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Arlene; a grandson, Mickey Gordon; and a great-granddaughter, Jessica Janusas.

Services were today at 11 a.m. at Kuiper Funeral Home, 9039 Kleinman Road, Highland, with Pastor John Napier officiating. Burial was in Chapel Lawn Cemetery.

Memorials are to Grace Baptist Church, 1800 E. Seventh St., Auburn.

## Shirley Ferguson

SPENCERVILLE — Shirley D. Ferguson, 55, of Spencerville died Monday, Aug. 20, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mrs. Ferguson

A lifetime DeKalb County resident, she was a nursing assistant at Byron Health Center in Fort Wayne.

She was an avid NASCAR fan, especially of Dale Earnhart Jr. She also was an Elvis Presley fan and enjoyed playing bingo and watching wrestling.

She was born July 5, 1952, in Fort Wayne to Junior and Effie Mae (Turner) Combs.

Surviving are three daughters and two sons-in-law, Amy and Jeffrey Thrush of Garrett, Angie and Jack Clair of Auburn and Lisa Ferguson of Auburn; two sons, William Ferguson and his fiancee, Angel Timmerman, of Spencerville and James Ferguson of Kentucky; a brother, James Combs of Garrett; three sisters and two brothers-in-law, Sue and Geral Richardson of Waynedale, Lois and Beauford Mullins of Avilla and Kathy Fugate of Garrett; 12 grandchildren, Bill Beverly of Garrett, Brandon Clair and Jackie Clair Jr., both of Auburn, Christina and Molly Clair of Auburn, Airriah Ferguson of Spencerville, Brianna Pommert of Waterloo, Alan and Austin Pommert of Kendallville, Desiree Pommert of Kendallville, Lillian Ferguson of Kentucky and Joshua Ferguson of Nashville, Tenn.; three stepgrandchildren, Nicholas Thrush of Fort Wayne, Scott Thrush of Garrett and Danielle Thrush of Kendallville; and a stepgreat-grandson, Ethan Michael Baker of Kendallville.

She was preceded in death by her father, a brother, Billy Combs, and a sister, Geraldine Combs.

Services will be Wednesday at 4 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, with Pastor Earl Rose Jr. officiating.

A graveside service will take place Saturday at 1 p.m. in Fairview Cemetery at Huntertown.

Calling will be Wednesday from 2-4 p.m. at the funeral home.

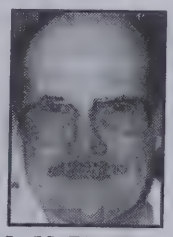
Memorials are to the family.

Condolences may be sent and an online guestbook may be signed at www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** *is being reprinted with additional information about relatives.*

## Earl McPherson

AUBURN — Earl McPherson, 70 of Auburn died Friday, Aug. 17, 2007, at his home, surrounded by his family and friends.


Mr. McPherson

Mr. McPherson worked at Auburn Foundry for 31 years, retiring in 1997. He was a member of union Local 322.

He was born April 18, 1937, in Hazard, Ky.

Surviving are his wife, Charlotte D. (Schreppel) McPherson of Auburn; two sons and daughters-in-law, Earl H. and Patricia McPherson of Fort Wayne and Roland C. and (Raine) McPherson of Auburn; three daughters and two sons-in-law, Marie E. and Jim (Hutchinson) Stephens of Fort Wayne, Rita K. Walker of Garland, Texas, and Loretta and Gordon McFavors of Fort Wayne; three brothers, Christopher C. McPherson of Auburn, Joseph W. McPherson of Pleasant Lake and Andrew W. McPherson of LaGrange; six sisters, Velma Dell'oro of North Haven, Conn., Missouri Lou of St. Joe, Imogene Schorey of Louisiana, Betty R. Baker of Auburn, Alice F. Klinger of Auburn and Ruby C. Baker of Hamilton; 20 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Amanda R. (Turner) and John J. McPherson; one daughter, Charlotte McPherson; four brothers, John, Tommy, Billy and Pearl McPherson; and one sister, Sara Sue.

Services will be today at 2 p.m. at McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be to day from 1-2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to SCAN and the PSP Foundation.

# *Longtime ACD Festival, museum leader Del Mar Johnson dies at age 82*

AUBURN — Del Mar D. Johnson, 82, of Auburn died Tuesday, Aug. 21, 2007, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mr. Johnson was the president of the Foley Pattern Co. in Auburn, retiring in 1986. He was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Auburn.

He graduated from Auburn High School and served in the U.S. Navy from 1943 to 1946 in the Southwest Pacific.

He was executive director of Civil Defense from 1949 to 1953, president of the Auburn Jaycees in 1954, president of the Auburn Chamber of Commerce in 1958 and 1959, commander of American Legion Post 97 of Auburn in 1965, a member of the Auburn City Council from 1956 to 1964, a member of the Auburn Plan Commission from 1958 to 1972, president of the Auburn Plan Commission from 1961 to 1972, a member of the Auburn Board of Zoning Appeals from 1967 to 1972, president of Greenhurst Country Club in 1973, chairman and president of the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Festival for 35 years from 1956 to 1991, a founding member and director of the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum from 1972 to 1986, was inducted into the ACD Museum's Hall of Distinguished Service in 1986, was a founding member and director of the National Automotive and Truck Museum of the United States (NATMUS), served as grand marshal of the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Festival Parade of Classics in 2003 and was named a Sagamore of the Wabash in 2004.

Mr. Johnson

He was born April 27, 1925, in Auburn to Daniel and Josephine (Loftus) Johnson. His father preceded him in death, and his mother survives in Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla.

He married Doris E. (Wolf) Myers in March 1953, and she survives in Auburn.

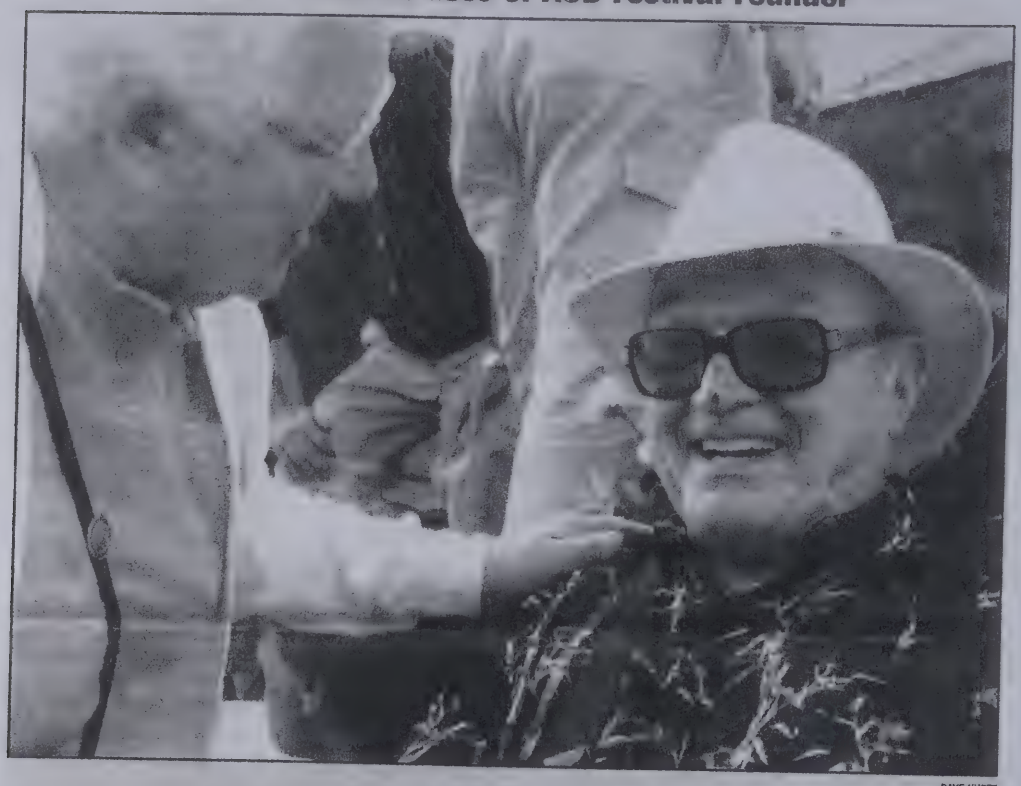
Also surviving are a son, David Johnson of Auburn; a stepson, Max A. Myers of Fort Wayne; a stepdaughter, Carolyn Myers of Springhill Fla.; a brother, Donald D. Johnson of Fort Wayne; six grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. in Trinity Lutheran Church, 1801 N. Main St., Auburn, with the Rev. Lloyd Bickel officiating. Burial wil be in Woodlawn Cemetery o Auburn, with graveside military services by American Legion Post 97.

Calling will be Thursday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn.

Memorials are to Trinity Lutheran Church, the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Festival, the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum or NATMUS.

## Auburn Mourns Loss of ACD Festival Founder



DAVE KURTZ

**Del Johnson chats with a friend after the 2006 Auburn Cord Duesenberg Festival Parade of Classics on the event's 50th anniversary. Johnson led the festival for 35 years. He died Tuesday at 82.**

# Car festival's driving force dies at age 82

**BY DAVE KURTZ**
dkurtz@kpcnews.net

AUBURN — Del Johnson's neighbors saw an annoyance when outsiders wanted to take over Auburn's streets for a car show in 1956.

Johnson saw the potential of thousands of people flocking to Auburn to admire classic cars built in the city in the 1920s and '30s.

Johnson, who died Tuesday at the age of 82, became a driving force behind the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Festival, which today ranks as one of America's greatest car shows.

"Del Mar was the visionary who recognized the importance of the heritage of the Auburns, Cords and Duesenbergs to the city of Auburn, even though many people in the community were very negative toward that heritage," local historian John Martin Smith said Tuesday.

"Del was relentless in his promotion of the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Club reunion and later the festival," Smith said.

Johnson never owned a classic car. He went to the first reunion of ACD Club members because no one else in Auburn wanted the job of welcoming the visitors.

"It was not a popular thing at all, at the time," Johnson recalled a few years ago. Downtown merchants complained that the display of old cars took parking spaces away from shoppers. No one wanted to be reminded of the Auburn Automobile Co.'s collapse in 1937.

Johnson's willingness to be a one-man hospitality committee would

STAR FILE PHOTO

**Del Johnson holds a model of an Auburn Boattail Speedster. He never owned a classic car, but led the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Festival for 35 years. He died Tuesday at the age of 82.**

The EVENING STAR
August 2007 Auburn, Indiana
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# Remembering Del: ACD, cars, people

Del Johnson, founder of the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Festival, finally is getting his Auburn Boattail Speedster. He won't ever have to worry about repairing it, getting it dirty or finding replacement parts for it. It's the car he always wanted, and he's getting one on his tombstone.

Del passed away Tuesday at the age of 82.

LINDSAY WINSLOW BROWN

For 50 years, he worked tirelessly, not only to bring car enthusiasts and owners to Auburn, but to create excitement in Auburn's air about the city's classic past.

"There was a sour taste in the town when the Auburn Automobile Co. went bankrupt. People in town were losing their stocks and investments. Del saw beyond that. He envisioned a future for Auburn. He recognized the history of it," said state Sen. Dennis Kruse.

But, Del never owned a classic, and as his longtime friend Jack Randinelli told me in an interview last year, Del couldn't tell a piston from a spark plug.

Del, however, must have had some sense of mechanics and engines. He served in World War II, and according to Jack, was a diesel mechanic on a boat that never broke down.

"He just read the owner's manual and did what it said," Jack said with a laugh.

The whole time I spoke to Jack, in spite of his sadness, he was smiling about the memories he and Del shared. I couldn't help but smile, too.

I first met Del at the ACD Festival last year — my very first festival and Del's 50th. I sat with Del and his wife, Doris, at the parade. Although Del was in a wheelchair, he still seemed to have a ball.

I'd never met Del before the day we sat in the grandstand together, but people told me he'd be the man with the big, black glasses. They were right. I could've spotted him a mile away.

Del helped me to appreciate the cars and the festival. There was something special about sitting with Del and Doris at the parade. It was one of those days I'll never forget. When Del watched that parade, he watched 50 years of his hard work drive by.

As each car passed, he told me story after story. It really wasn't an interview — I didn't have to ask very many questions. The stories he told, however, didn't seem to be about the cars as much as they were the people. He told me about all the folks he'd met in his lifetime of planning the festival. I don't think he had an unkind word to say about any of them.

Del talked about going backstage with Jay Leno and gambling with Virginia Cord. He'd talk about the people he helped along the way or people who helped him.

As much as he liked the cars, I got the impression that he enjoyed the people more.

I'm only sorry that I didn't get to know Del better. After talking with Jack last night, I learned a lot more about Del, the most profound of which, I believe, was that he was a member of the Royal Order of the Garter. That's all I can tell you, though. Jack swore me to secrecy about the rest.

"You could never ask for a better friend — he could agree or disagree with you, and he'd still be your friend. He was certainly a good friend to me. Del was just the kind of guy — boy, he loved his hometown. He will be missed," Jack said. "You can count your real friends on about one hand, and Del was my friend."

Although he will be sorely missed, his spirit will carry on in the festivals in years to come.

Jack felt Del passed at an inopportune time — less than two weeks before this year's festival. Jack's wife, Ruth, however, said she thought it was the best time, because all Del's friends are here.

Although he never owned a classic car, in the end, Dell finally got his Boattail Speedster. We all know he's driving it now.

## DRIVING FORCE: *Johnson given $200 budget for meet*

FROM PAGE A1

change his life. He became friends with TV star and car collector Jay Leno, legendary TV sportscaster Chris Schenkel and other celebrities who shared his love of Auburn's historic automobiles.

"I was more interested in the people than the cars at first," Johnson once said about the ACD Club.

Smith joined the tiny band of dreamers who shared Johnson's vision, working unselfishly to make tourists feel welcome in Auburn.

Smith recalled that in the 1950s, the Auburn Chamber of Commerce gave Johnson a budget of $200 for the annual classic-car meet.

"He contributed much more from his own pocket to promote the event," Smith said.

To save their own cash, Johnson and Smith convinced the Kruse family to stage Auburn's first collector-car auction in 1971. Within a few years, the auction raised enough money to create the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum and became a world-famous attraction in its own right.

"Del Johnson was the unofficial ambassador for the city of Auburn," said Dean Kruse, owner of Kruse International auction company. "He was interested in this community more than anybody would realize. He worked tirelessly to build the festival with no money, no pay. ... This guy gave his life. He lived and breathed it every day."

But through all the work, Johnson seemed to enjoy himself thoroughly.

"He was always fun. He always was having a good time. He always made us feel like we were special," said Stephanie Helgesen, executive director of the ACD Festival organization.

"He has a knack for having lots of fun, but accomplishing great things," Jack Randinelli said about Johnson in 2003.

Johnson recruited Randinelli to work for the festival in 1964.

"He had to be the best salesman in the world, because 43 years later I'm still doing it," Randinelli said Tuesday. Randinelli became the festival's president when Johnson retired in 1991.

"He was truly a mentor for me in community service, in what you should do and what was the right thing to do," Randinelli said.

"Auburn's very fortunate to have had Del Johnson as a citizen for many years," Mayor Norm Yoder said Tuesday.

"He gave Auburn its heritage back," by restoring the popularity of the history surrounding Auburn Automobile Co., Yoder said.

"In many ways, he'll be missed, but never forgotten, for sure."

## Roberta Reed

SAN DIEGO, Calif. — Roberta (Steininger) Reed, 67, of San Diego, Calif., died Sunday, Aug. 19, 2007.

The daughter of Emmett and Mabel "Peggy" Steininger, she was born and raised in Auburn.

She graduated from Auburn High School and Bethany Nazarene College in Oklahoma. She received a Master of Science degree in education from Central State University in Oklahoma.

She married Gerald Reed in 1963. The Reeds had planned to retire to a home they recently constructed in Auburn.

She taught business education classes at Putnam City High School in Oklahoma, Mid America Nazarene College in Olathe, Kan., and Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego, Calif.

She became a travel agent and for more than 30 years planned travel experiences for herself and many others. As Point Loma Nazarene University began sending Love Works missions teams around the world, she made the travel arrangements.

Surviving are her parents, Emmett and Peggy Steininger; three sisters, Judy Johnson of Indianapolis, Betty Theel of Overland Park, Kan., and Barbara Hoff of Auburn; and a brother, Don, of Fort Wayne.

A memorial service was held Wednesday in San Diego. Burial will be near the Reeds' second home in Florissant, Colo., following a funeral service at Community Fellowship of Christians at Lake George, Colo.

Memorials are to Heart-to-Heart, Compassion International or Healing Waters and may be mailed to Community Fellowship of Christians, 39633 U.S. Highway 24, P.O. Box 524, Lake George, CO 80827.

## Vivian Brand

KENDALLVILLE — Vivian Irene Brand, 86, of Kendallville died Wednesday, Aug. 22, 2007, at St. Anne Home in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Brand

Mrs. Brand was employed early in her life at Flint & Walling in Kendallville, and later worked at General Electric in Fort Wayne and Courier Printing in Kendallville for 15 years.

She was a 1938 graduate of Salem Center High School.

Mrs. Brand was a member of First Christian Church in Kendallville.

She was born in DeKalb County on Dec. 20, 1920, to John and Ethel (Kahler) Schoup. She married George William Brand on Oct. 5, 1941, in Auburn. He survives in Kendallville.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, John and Mary Ann Brand of Fort Wayne; four grandchildren, Katie, Nick and Jason Brand of Fort Wayne and Stacy Kean and her husband, Andrew, of Nashville, Tenn.; and a sister, Helen Strater of Kendallville.

She was preceded in death by her parents; an infant son, Roger Lee Brand; and a brother, Loyal Schoup.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Hite Funeral Home, Kendallville, with Pastor Robert Farmer officiating. Burial will be at Woodland Cemetery in Wolcottville.

Calling will be from 4-7 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to First Christian Church.

Condolences may be sent online to www.hitefuneralhome.com.

## Delmer Smith

GARRETT — Delmer O. Smith, 86, of Garrett died Tuesday, Aug. 21, 2007, at 3:15 a.m. at Miller's Merry Manor nursing home in Garrett.

Mr. Smith

Mr. Smith was a lifetime resident of Garrett. He was an engineer on the B&O Railroad for 44 years, retiring in 1985. He was a World War II veteran, serving in the U.S. Navy with the Seabees as a water tender second class. He received the Presidential Unit Citation while attached to the 1st Division Marines of Okinawa and received special training in deep-sea diving.

He was a member of the Garrett Presbyterian Church and the Garrett post of the American Legion. He served as a volunteer for the Garrett Recycling Center, Meals on Wheels and Community Cares.

He was elected Garrett's Citizen of the Year in 2001.

He was born Nov. 28, 1920, in Garrett to Carl A. and Dora E. (Barrone) Smith.

He married Betty U. Miller on June 16, 1940, in Garrett. She survives.

Also surviving are three sons, Myron G. Smith of Fort Wayne, Timothy P. Smith of Snow Lake and David T. Smith of Harper's Ferry, W.Va.; three daughters, Brenda C. Viers of Myrtle Beach, S.C., Deborah L. Smith of Garrett and Del Marie Burchardt of Scappoose, Oregon; a sister, Cleo Talley of Garrett; 16 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; and one great-great granddaughter.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a daughter, Ethel Ann Smith; a brother, Buford "Boots" Smith; three sisters, Dorothy Brandmo, Eunice Sherrick and Phyllis Hixson; and one grandchild.

Services will be Saturday at 10 a.m. at Lakewood Park Baptist Church, 5555 C.R. 29, Auburn. Pastor Wayne Smith and Pastor Russell Howard will officiate. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery of Garrett, with military graveside services by the Garrett posts of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Calling will be Friday from 4-8 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, and Saturday from 9-10 a.m. at Lakewood Park Baptist Church.

Memorials are to the Multiple Sclerosis Society, the Deacons' Fund of Lakewood Park Baptist Church or a charity of the donor's choice.

To send a condolence or sign the online register book, visit www.thomasfuneral-home.org.

## Blanche Williams

GARRETT — Blanche Williams, 92, of Garrett, died Thursday, Aug. 23, 2007, at 4:15 a.m. at Miller's Merry Manor Nursing Home in Garrett.

Mrs. Williams was the former owner of Blanche's Carpet Shop in Garrett for 35 years. She had been retired for many years.

Mrs. Williams

She was a devoted mother, grandmother and great-grandmother and loved volunteer work as she ministered to seniors at Miller's Merry Manor for many years. She also enjoyed cooking, fishing, attending church and family gatherings.

She was a member of the Good Shepherd Fellowship Church in Garrett.

She was born Nov. 22, 1914, in Avilla, to Marshall L. and Mary Mae Belle (Conkle) Andrews. They preceded her in death.

She married Raymond P. Williams on April 2, 1931, in Auburn. He died Sept. 22, 1987.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Larry and Roxanne Williams of Auburn; eight grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a son, Ronald P. Williams, a brother, Claude Andrews, and two sisters, Ida Mae Slentz and Birdena Brandon.

Services will be Sunday at 2 p.m. in Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, with Larry Williams officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery of Garrett.

Calling will be Saturday from 4-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Miller's Merry Manor Activities Department.

Condolences may be sent and an online register book may be signed at www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

# An officer and a model dad

## Keith Clevenger served with Indiana State Police for 20 years

BY JIM SHILANDER
jims@kpcnews.net

ORLAND — Keith Clevenger's daughters say they'll remember their father for how he treated people.

A 20 year-veteran of the Indiana State Police, who also worked as a probation officer in LaGrange County, Clevenger, 76, died Tuesday in Fort Wayne.

"He wasn't like a lot of officers who think they're tough guys. Dad was always ready to help the people he stopped on the road. The same was true when he joined the probation department," daughter Kathy Nelson of LaGrange said.

Daughter Vickie Petrie added, "He tried to help people get back to the right path."

Clevenger first patrolled out of Ligonier, then worked the Indiana Toll Road. A number of letters written by some of the people he helped on the way to Cleveland, Chicago and points beyond painted the picture of a friendly man who went out of his way to help people in a bad position.

After several years on patrol, Clevenger began working as a state police detective. He worked the Ferguson murder case in Fremont, and a personal letter from then-DeKalb County prosecutor H. Charles Winans attested to his work in apprehending suspects who had firebombed Winans' home in 1971, saying Clevenger had acted "above and beyond the call of duty."

"Never before have I witnessed police officers working so efficiently and cooperatively with other officers," Winans wrote.

Clevenger also received four citations for meritorious service as a gunner in Korea as a member of the 13th Bomb Squadron, "The Grim Reapers."

Clevenger, his daughters said, also distinguished himself as a family man.

"He adopted us girls when he and Mom (Barbara Clevenger) got married," Nelson said. "We were 5 and 6, and he was the only father we've ever known. His whole family has always treated us like family. An old friend of his said when he saw us with him for the first time, he knew everything would be all right."

The daughters said Clevenger wouldn't let them get away with anything, because he didn't want to put himself in an awkward position.

"He used to tell us, 'If you get put in jail, you stay in jail,'" Nelson said. "We walked the line pretty good."

Petrie said her father was even afraid to go to her wedding reception, because he worried there would be underage drinking going on.

The Clevengers were "like two peas in a pod," Petrie said. "My dad would do anything for my mother." Nelson said his care extended even in darker times.

"When Mom was dying (she passed away in 2004), dad took care of her with such loving kindness, it was unbelievable," Nelson said.

Petrie said she had moved in with her father when his health began to deteriorate, but then developed cancer herself.

"When I got my cancer, dad continued to treat me just as he'd treated Mom. He treated me like gold," she said.

Both daughters remarked that Clevenger was a well respected man in both counties where he worked, but was a very quiet man who didn't like to toot his own horn.

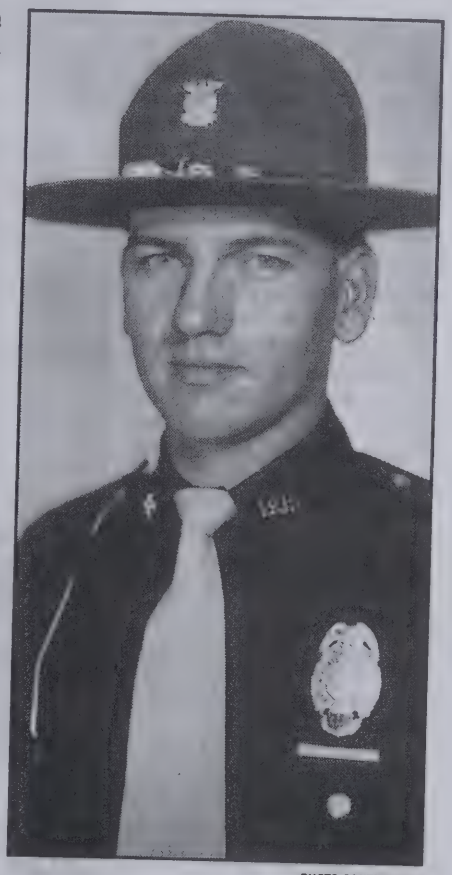

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Keith Clevenger served with the Indiana State Police for 20 years before retiring.**

"I think servicing his community was very important to him," Petrie said.

In 1975, the year he retired from the state police, Clevenger was awarded the Louis Smith Outstanding Police Officer award from Orland American Legion Post 423.

## Nettie Goings

AUBURN — Nettie B. Goings, 59, died Saturday morning, Aug. 25, 2007, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

A 1966 graduate of Waterloo High School, she received an animal control degree in 1990 from the Humane Society of the United States in Bowling Green, Ohio. In 1992, she received a cruelty investigation degree from the University of Columbia in Columbia, Mo. She was the first animal control officer of DeKalb County for the animal shelter. She also had served the shelter as manager, vice president, treasurer and secretary.

Mrs. Goings loved her family and friends, pets, reading, playing cards and antique tractor pulls. She was a member of New Hope Christian Center.

She was born in Auburn on Oct. 11, 1947, to Donald C. and Irene L. (Weinhold) Osbun. They both preceded her in death.

She married Dale Goings in the Cedar Lake Church of Christ on Oct. 2, 1966. He survives.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Robert "Bob" and Patti Goings of Kendallvile; two grandchildren, Nathan and Taylar Goings of Kendallville; and a brother and sister-in-law, Donald L. "Abe" and Linda Osbun of Dunn, N.C.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. Ralph Diehl and the Rev. Don Ruhl officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Calling will be from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Shop with a Cop Program or New Hope Christian Center.

## Mildred Coy

NEY, Ohio — Mildred E. Coy, 94, died Saturday Aug. 25, 2007, at Harborside Healthcare in Bryan, Ohio.

Mrs. Coy was a 1930 graduate of Edgerton High School and graduated from the Springfield General Hospital as a registered nurse.

She was employed at Defiance, Bryan and Hicksville hospitals in Ohio throughout her career and retired from DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn,

She was a member of St. John Lutheran Church in Hicksville, Ohio, and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3360 in Defiance, Ohio.

She was born July 30, 1913, to David and Emma (Gumbert) Gaston in Paulding County, Ohio.

She marred Paul S. Coy on Nov. 25, 1939. He died in 1978.

Surviving are two daughters: Christine Coy of Cleveland and Ann Coy of Colorado Springs, Colo.; two sons, Paul Milo of Defiance and Frank of Ney; five grandchildren: Lora Brown, Tamara Smith, Alisa Coy, Andrew and Milo Coy; three stepgrandchildren: Jennifer Lambert and Mark and Michael Burkhart; 13 great-grandchildren and a sister, Marie Swanson.

She was preceded in death by four brothers, George, Walter, Wayne and Gerald, and a sister, Clara Corcoran.

Services will be Tuesday at 10 a.m. at St. John Lutheran Church in Hicksville. The Rev. Daniel Fugate will officiate.

Calling will be Monday from 2-5 and 6-8 p.m. at Smith & Brown Funeral Home in Hicksville.

Burial will be at Farmer Cemetery in Farmer, Ohio.

## Marie Casebere

EDGERTON, Ohio — Marie R. Casebere, 89, of rural Edgerton, Ohio, died Friday, Aug. 24, 2007, at 4:32 p.m. at the Laurels of DeKalb nursing home in Butler, where she was resident for the past three years.

Mrs. Casebere was a nurses' aide and worked at DeKalb Memorial Hospital for 15 years until her retirement.

She formerly had worked at Syncro in both Hicksville and Edgerton in Ohio and at Crane-Edmund in Butler.

She was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Hicksville, Ohio, and Pythian Sisters and Priscilla Club in Edgerton, Ohio.

She was born Aug. 30, 1917, in Hicksville, Ohio, the daughter of Ira and Oma (Rex) Lantz.

She married Owen Hastings Casebere in November 1940. He died March 17, 1974.

Surviving are one son, Larry Casebere of Fort Wayne; a daughter and son-in-law, Janet and Bernard Shafer of Butler; a stepdaughter and her spouse, Pat Day and Nile Lavon of Bryan, Ohio; six grandchildren and their spouses, Peter, Philip and Stacy Casebere, Tamara and Felix Melchor, Lisa Nelson and Dawn and Jared Olson; two stepgrandchildren and their spouses, Lee and Jodie Day and Dean and Rosie Day; six great-grandchildren; and one sister, Mary Minnig of Hicksville, Ohio.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by three sisters, Ruth Gerlock, Helen Maloney and Frieda Lantz, and three brothers, Roy, Harry and Elmer Lantz.

Services will be Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. in Krill Funeral Home at Edgerton, Ohio, with the Rev. Daniel Fugate officiating. Burial will follow in Maple Grove Cemetery in Edgerton.

Calling will be Monday from 4-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Edgerton Senior Center or the Friends of the Edgerton Library.

Condolences may sent to and an online register may be signed at the Web site www.krillfuneralservice.com.

## Herbert Bickley Jr.

FORT WAYNE — Herbert V. Bickley Jr., 76, of Fort Wayne and formerly of Kendallville died Saturday, Aug. 25, 2007, at his home.

Mr. Bickely had retired in 1991 after serving 27 years as a carrier for the U.S. Postal Service.

He was born in Kendallville to Herbert Sr. and Goldie Bickley. They are deceased.

Mr. Bickley was a U.S. Army veteran and a member of American Legion Post 86 in Kendallville.

He was also a member of the National Association of Letter Carriers.

Surviving are a daughter, Brenda Payton of Garrett; a son, John Bickley Sr. of Butler; two sisters, June Likes and Juanita Braden; and grandchildren, Ben and Daniel Payton and John Jr. and Micah Bickley.

He was also preceded in death by a brother, Ralph Bickley.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at D.O. McComb & Sons Pine Valley Park Funeral Home, 1320 E. Dupont Road, Fort Wayne. Burial will be in Lake View Cemetery with military graveside services by the U.S. Army.

Calling will be from 4-7 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** is *being reprinted with revised information about surviving relatives.*

## Nettie Goings

AUBURN — Nettie B. Goings, 59, died Saturday morning, Aug. 25, 2007, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

A 1966 graduate of Waterloo High School, she received an animal control degree in 1990 from the Humane Society of the United States in Bowling Green, Ohio. In 1992, she received a cruelty investigation degree from the University of Columbia in Columbia, Mo. She was the first animal control officer of DeKalb County for the animal shelter. She also had served the shelter as manager, vice president, treasurer and secretary.

Mrs. Goings loved her family and friends, pets, reading, playing cards and antique tractor pulls. She was a member of New Hope Christian Center.

She was born in Auburn on Oct. 11, 1947, to Donald C. and Irene L. (Weinhold) Osbun. They both preceded her in death.

She married Dale Goings in the Cedar Lake Church of Christ on Oct. 2, 1966. He survives.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Robert "Bob" and Patti Goings of Kendallvile; two grandchildren, Nathan Terry and Taylar Knox of Kendallville; and a brother and sister-in-law, Donald L. "Abe" and Linda Osbun of Dunn, N.C.

Services will be at 2 p.m. today at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. Ralph Diehl and the Rev. Don Ruhl officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Memorials are to the Shop with a Cop Program or New Hope Christian Center.

# *Former State Fire Marshal William Goodwin, 85, dies*

ANGOLA — Former State Fire Marshal William C. Goodwin, 85, of Angola died Sunday, Aug. 26, 2007, at Northern Lakes Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Angola.

**Mr. Goodwin**

Mr. Goodwin was the Indiana State Fire Marshal from 1973 to 1985, for former Govs. Otis Bowen and Robert Orr. He had previously worked as a businessman in Angola.

He was a member of Angola United Methodist Church, the Angola Fire Department (from 1944 to the present), serving as chief from 1960 to 1973. He was a member of the Angola City Council from 1952 to 1960, and was awarded the Indiana Outstanding Young Man of the Year award in 1947 by the Jaycees. He was a member of the Lions Club, Kiwanis of Indianapolis, the Angola Masonic Lodge, Angola Elks, Angola Moose, the Indiana Volunteer Fireman's Association (where he served as president from 1969 to 1971), the Indiana Fire Fighter's Association, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the International Association of Arson Investigators, the Indiana Association of Arson Investigators, and the Indiana Fire Instructor's Association. He received three Sagamores of the Wabash and a Kentucky Colonel.

He was born on May 7, 1922, in White House, Ohio, to Erwin and Mahala (Childs) Goodwin. He married Janet Mitchell on Sept. 10, 1944. She survives.

Also surviving are a son, David Goodwin of Angola; two daughters and sons-in-law, Sara and Donald Silvey of Carmel, and Susan and Robert Crankshaw of Angola; a brother, Jack Goodwin of Lawrence, Kan.; five grandchildren and three spouses, Craig Dragoo, Brent and Melissa Dragoo, Kathy and Sean Mayberry, Matthew and Megan Crankshaw, and Adam Crankshaw; and two great-grandchildren, Danny Mayberry and Katie Crankshaw.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Marianna Franze.

Services will be held Thursday at 11 a.m. at Fairview Missionary Church in Angola, with a chaplin from the Indiana Volunteer Firefighter's Association officiating. Burial will be in Circle Hill Cemetery in Angola.

Calling will be held from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at Weicht Funeral Home in Angola.

Memorials are to the Angola Fire Department.

## Patricia Bock

GARRETT — Patricia Freeman Drerup Bock, 61, of Garrett died Monday, Aug. 27, 2007, at Visiting Nurse & Hospice Home in Fort Wayne.

**Mrs. Bock**

Mrs. Bock had worked for 23 years at County Line Cheese Co. at Auburn and had been a real estate agent for Oberlin Real Estate in Hamilton and Kimmel Realty in Avilla until 2006.

She was a 1964 graduate of Garrett High School.

She was born July 20, 1946, in Garrett to Melvin C. and Veda M. (Baysinger) Freeman. Her father died in December 1957 and her mother, Veda Freeman Bellows, survives near Avilla.

Also surviving are her companion, Bob Leas of Columbia City; two sons, Brian Bock of Garrett and Adam Bock of Avilla; a daughter and son-in-law, Dina and Scott Teders of Avilla; a sister and brother-in-law, Janice and Lee Christlieb of Avilla; six grandchildren, Brennen Teders, Aubrey Teders, Jared Teders, Haley Bock, Aarian Bock and Breanna Bock; and nieces and nephews, Joni and Matt Blomeke and Daren and Kim Christlieb.

Calling will be from 5-8 p.m.. Wednesday at David Funeral Home, 1292 Drake Road, Kendallville. Cremation will follow.

Graveside services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Embrey Cemetery near Garrett. The Rev. Scott Pattison of Trinity Church United Methodist in Kendallville will be officiating.

Memorials are to the family or Visiting Nurse & Hospice Home.

## John Smith

KNOX — John Delmar Smith, 75, of Knox and formerly of Riverdale, Ill., died Friday, Aug. 24, 2007, at his home.

Mr. Smith worked as head of maintenance for 25 years at Patton School in Riverdale. He served in the U.S. Army Air Force from 1950 to 1954.

He was a member of the Knox post of the American Legion and was active in Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Civic Center in Illinois. He was an active member of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Knox and was involved in construction of the new church building.

He was born Sept. 19, 1931, in Auburn to Ray and Goldie May (Kristofferson) Smith.

He married Mary Lou Schlegel, on Sept. 4, 1954. She survives.

Also surviving are a daughter, Janice Davis of Portage; two sons and a daughter-in-law, John David and Cheryl Smith of St. John and Dennis Smith of Dyer; six grandchildren, Shelly Smith, Sabrina Davis, Brittany Smith, Brooke Smith, Jenna Smith and John R. Davis; two great-grandsons, Jaivon Smith and Wrigley Monhaut; four sisters, Katherine Decker of Auburn, Lela Allen of Anderson, Mary Ellen McInturf of Sun City, Ariz., and Shelba Jean Shuff of Garrett; three brothers, Blake Smith, Donald Smith and Warren Smith, all of Auburn; and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Effie, and two brothers, Dale and Edgar.

Services were Tuesday at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. Burial was in Bass Lake Lutheran Cemetery.

M.C. Smith Funeral Home of Knox handled arrangements.

## Rae Ann Key

DALY CITY, Calif. — Rae Anne (Trainer) Key, 68, of Daly City, Calif., and formerly of Garrett, died July 28, 2007.

**Mrs. Key**

She graduated from Garrett High School in 1956 and enrolled in Ball State University in Muncie, where she earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in teaching and counseling.

Her teaching career spanned 40 years, beginning in Muncie, with the last 35 years in the San Francisco, Calif., area.

She will be remembered for her positive attitude and was highly respected by her peers and admired by her family and friends. She loved laughter, practical jokes, traveling and being with her family and friends.

She was born Sept. 2, 1938, to Raymond E. and Anne J. Trainer of Garrett. They preceded her in death.

Surviving are a son, David Scott Key of Florida; a sister, Sandra (Trainer) Grogg of Florida; and a niece, Stacey L. Williamson and her son, Robert "Robbie" Hunter, of Florida.

Services were in California.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County chapter of the American Cancer Society.

## Raymond Saxer

GARRETT — Raymond A. "Bud" Saxer, 86, of Garrett died Wednesday, Aug. 29, 2007, at Lutheran Hospital of Fort Wayne.

Mr. Saxer

Mr. Saxer worked as a home decorator for many years and served as coach for the DeKalb County Boxing Club from 1952 until 1989, coaching a total of 2,008 boys. He was named Garrett's Citizen of the Year in 1969.

Mr. Saxer was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II and a member of the Garrett United Methodist Church, the Garrett post of the American Legion and Disabled American Veterans.

He was born Dec. 11, 1920, in Garrett to Walter and Mabel (Cashbaugh) Saxer.

On July 27, 1946, he married Marjorie D. Kelham. She survives.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Ellsworth and Cathy Saxer of Garrett; a daughter and son-in-law, Susan and Frank Majeski of Monee, Ill.; two grandsons, Alex Saxer and his wife, Sarah, and Anthony Saxer, all of Garrett; a granddaughter and her husband, Amanda and Ryan Hathaway of Garrett; a great-grandson, Nolan Hathaway of Garrett; a great-granddaughter, Halle Hathaway of Garrett; a brother and sister-in-law, Robert and Loni Saxer of Terre Haute; and two sisters and brothers-in-law, Thelma and Mike Ringenberg and Harriett and John McQuown, all of Auburn.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Lyman and Ellsworth Saxer; and two sisters, Katherine Souder and Evelyn Loomis.

Services will be Saturday at 10 a.m. in Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery of Garrett, with military graveside services by the Garrett posts of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Calling will be Friday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m.at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Boxing Club.

Condolences may be sent and an online guestbook may be signed at www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

## LeNore Lewis

GARRETT — M. LeNore Lewis, 79, of Garrett, died Wednesday, Aug. 29, 2007, at Miller's Merry Manor Nursing Home in Garrett.

Miss Lewis was a lifetime Garrett resident. She served as a physical education and health teacher and later as a guidance counselor at Garrett High School. She retired in 1985 with 35 years of service.

She was a member of the Garrett Church of Christ.

She was born Feb. 14, 1928, in Garrett, to Sherman and Grace M. (Brown) Lewis.

Surviving are a brother, Sherman Lewis of North Port, Fla.; three sisters, Elaine Kizer and Winifred Johnston, both of Garrett, and Jessica Moses of Findlay, Ohio; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; four brothers, William, Beryl, Meryl and Clyde Lewis; and a sister, Lavon Lewis.

There will be no calling. A private family memorial service will be at a later date.

Memorials are to the Garrett Public Library Foundation.

Condolences may be sent and an online guestbook may be signed at www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

## Frances Wilson

AUBURN — Frances Louise Wilson, 95, of Auburn, died Wednesday, Aug. 29, 2007, at Community North Hospital in Indianapolis.

Mrs. Wilson was a homemaker. She was a member of the Auburn First United Methodist Church and sang in the church choir.

Mrs. Wilson

Mrs. Wilson received a Bachelor of Science degree from Olivet College in Olivet, Mich.

She was a former member of Sigma Beta and a member of Entre Nous Literary Club.

She was born Feb. 26, 1912, in Auburn to Charles Elmer and Bertha (Ketchum) Frederick. They preceded her in death.

She married Donald G. Wilson in the home of her parents on Sept. 1, 1935. He preceded her in death.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, John and Debra Wilson of Auburn; two daughters and sons-in-law, Barbara and Robert Irving of Pendleton, Ore., and Mary and Roger Marchal of Greenfield; five grandchildren and their spouses, Jim and Karen Irving, Ben and Mia Irving, Jeffrey and Helen Marchal, Lisa Marchal and Brandon Wilson; and seven great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Cortland Frederick.

Services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. at the Auburn First United Methodist Church with the Rev. Wilbur Yates officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery at Auburn.

Calling will be Tuesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, and Wednesday from 10-11 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to Eckhart Public Library in Auburn or the Auburn First United Methodist Church.

## Donald Brandeberry

CORUNNA — Donald J. Brandeberry, 79, of Corunna died Wednesday, Aug. 29, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Brandeberry was a truck driver for Sentle Trucking Co. of Gary.

He was a Teamster and was a U.S. Army Veteran, serving in the Korean conflict.

Mr. Brandeberry attended the Auburn Church of the Nazarene.

He was born April 9, 1928, in LaGrange County, to Roy J. and Ruth (Hostetler) Brandeberry. They preceded him in death.

He married Garcile Diehm on Jan. 18, 1959, in Corunna and she survives.

Also surviving are three daughters and sons-in-law, VonDeLee and George Showalter of Corunna, Donna Faye and Cecil Yoder of Bronson, Mich., and Kathy Jo and Henry Quayle of Elizabeth, Colo; a sister and brother-in-law, Dorris J. and Don Lilly of Blountstown, Fla.; seven grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Services will be Sunday at 2 p.m. in the Auburn Church of the Nazarene with the Rev. Dan White officiating. Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery in rural Corunna.

Calling will be Saturday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, and Sunday from 1-2 p.m. at the church.

Memorials are to the American Diabetes Association.

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**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** *is being reprinted to include calling hours inadvertently omitted by this newspaper.*

## L.D. Gramling

ANGOLA — L.D. Gramling, 88, of Angola, died Thursday, Aug. 30, 2007, at Cameron Memorial Community Hospital in Angola.

He owned Wearly Monuments in Angola for 20 years.

**Mr. Gramling**

Mr. Gramling served in the U.S. Navy in World War II, receiving a Purple Heart.

He was a member of the Disabled American Veterans of Garrett and the Orland American Legion Post No. 423. He was also a member of Pleasant Lake United Methodist Church.

He was born on Jan. 3, 1919, to Carl and Bessie (Parr) Gramling. He married Cleota M. Potts in the Church of Christ parsonage in Auburn on April 27, 1941. She survives.

He is also survived by a daughter, Carol Stegemoller of Jackson, Mich.; two sons and daughters-in-law, Ronald and Cathi Gramling of Dallas, and Terry and Cyndi Gramling of Houston; nine grandchildren, Tara Burley, Stacy Smith, David and Jeffrey Stegemoller, Kimberly Foote, Ronald Gramling Jr., Brian Gramling, Kelley Gramling and Christine Anderson; and 15 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a daughter, Nancy Rockey in 1989.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Sunday at Johnson Funeral Home in Hudson, with the Rev. John Boyanowski officiating.

Burial will be in Circle Hill Cemetery in Angola with the Orland American Legion conducting military services.

Pallbearers will be Brian Gramling, Ronald Gramling, Tobey Burley, Marty Smith, Bob Foote, Jeff Stegemoller and Mike Lytle.

Calling will be today from 4 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the National Diabetes Association.

Condolences may be sent to Johnson@bnin.net.

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# Talented and giving, area woman lived up to her name

BY VIV BOSSWORTH
vivianr@kpcnews.net

KIMMELL — While pregnant and giving birth to her first child in Swan Township, Noble County, in March 1937, Annabelle Rosenogle was very ill. Omar, her husband, and the baby's aunt were present when the tiny infant was born prematurely, weighing only 3 1/2 pounds. Aunt Bessie Bryle told the couple to have faith, because the stars were shining so brightly that it must be a sign. Annabelle and Omar named their baby Starr Faith.

Starr Faith Rosenogle Johanns spent the next 70 years tending to the needs of others. Whether she was nursing, quilting, gardening, fishing, baking or hosting a large family gathering, she shared all she had. Many times what she offered was her radiant smile, her faith and her positive, can-do attitude.

Growing up on the farm, Starr and her younger sister, Linda Wilson of Albion, were responsible for milking the cows at night and in the morning before school, as well as feeding chickens and hogs and gathering eggs. Wilson remembers that the two were "tomboyish" and would often — while their parents were away — climb to the top of the windmill and dangle by their legs or use the wire that supported the inside barn roof as a high wire to perform acrobatic feats.

"We grew up as happy kids with lots of learning and loving from family," Wilson said.

Their mother's health continued to decline, and she died when Starr was 16 and Linda was 13. Dropping out of high school to care for her mother and help with her sister, Starr never looked back.

Not until she was 36.

That's when Starr decided to get her high school diploma. She attended Columbia City Joint High School with her oldest son, Pat. They graduated together in 1973.

After Pat came Tina, Lisa, Joni, Shari, Tim and Rob. After helping take care of her sister-in-law, who died of muscular sclerosis, Starr welcomed her sister-in-law's three children into her home, growing her brood to 10 for several years. Later, she would add two grown stepchildren — James Johann and Terressa Clark — to her extended family tree.

When Starr divorced and was struggling to support seven children, she worked at a nearby hospital and moonlighted at a Tri-Lakes restaurant.

"She was working two jobs," remembers her daughter, Lisa Richmond. "But still canned all of our food and, with Grandpa's help, butchered meat in the fall. She was an expert seamstress and sewed all of our clothes. We didn't have much money, and when my sisters and I wanted designer jeans, mom bought denim and made jeans that looked exactly like the ones in the store."

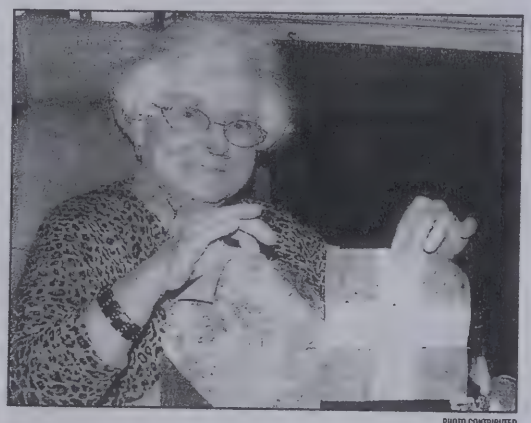

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Mrs. Starr Johanns is shown in her van while quilting. Mrs. Johanns died Aug. 20, at th age of 70.

Mrs. Johanns

""She told us we were capable of doing anything and proved it herself," said daughter Joni Smith.

It was at the restaurant while working as a waitress that Starr met her soul mate.

Virgil Johanns was in the restaurant in the fall of 1981 with a friend when "this beautiful woman" caught his eye.

"I couldn't let go," Virgil Johanns said. "I pursued her until she agreed to marry me six or seven months later. I probably made a fool of myself."

The couple married on April 10, 1982. Johanns was in awe of his catch.

"I always thought she was so talented and gifted, she could have gone anywhere, done anything and achieved greatness," he said, then added, "But I'm glad she stayed here."

Her children also were in awe.

"We would go through magazines and rip out the parts of wedding dresses we liked. Mom would do a composite and then design and make a gown exactly like we wanted," said daughter Tina Elliott. "She made all of our dresses, did all of the silk flower arrangements and made beautiful, multi-tiered and intricately designed wedding cakes. She could do anything. She tore out walls, remodeled, reupholstered furniture. She taught us to work hard, to never lose faith."

In 1982 Virgil and Starr Johanns were talking and Starr mentioned she had always wanted to be a nurse.

"I told her she still could," Virgil Johanns said.

"She was not the very first in line to register for the school of nursing at IPFW in Fort Wayne, but she was close," he remembered. "She was floating about 6 inches off the floor when they accepted her."

Three years later, at the age of 48, Starr graduated from the Purdue University School of Nursing. After working for many years at several area nursing homes and hospitals — she especially liked taking care of the elderly — Starr retired and became an award-winning quilter and quilt designer.

Starr also loved to fish and garden, and her yard was a showcase of carefully tended blooms and greenery.

In the winter, when the Johanns traveled to southern Texas, Starr had Virgil hook up a sewing machine in the van and while Virgil drove, Starr sewed quilt squares.

"She was one amazing woman," Virgil said.

Starr discovered after returning to Indiana in March that she had lung cancer. She died five months later on Aug. 20 at the age of 70.

"Starr was a very caring person. If anyone needed something, she would be right there to help if she could," said Wilson. "She always had something to share — cakes, soups, pie, cookies, you name it — and she was always bringing something for someone. She always had a smile for everyone regardless of how bad she felt."

"At her funeral, people who had worked with her said they had never seen her without a smile on her face," said Lisa Richmond. "She was always a ray of sunshine."

Or perhaps, it was more a ray of starshine.

## Basil Brown

LEO-CEDARVILLE — Basil K. Brown, 81, of Leo-Cedarville, died Tuesday, Aug. 28, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Born in DeKalb County, Mr. Brown retired from Smith Petroleum in 1989 with 42 years of service. He worked part-time for Bentz Metal Products for two years.

Mr. Brown

He was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II, serving from 1944 to 1946, and was a member of Robinson Chapel United Methodist Church. He enjoyed fishing and playing cards.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Kenneth and Cindy Brown of Auburn; a daughter and son-in-law, Janell and the Rev. James Pollem of Deerfield, Kan.; five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Martha Brown, his parents, Charles and Genevieve (Badman) Brown, a sister, Elizabeth Fett, and two brothers, Fredrick and Bryce Brown.

Services will be Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. at McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, with the Rev. James Pollem officiating. Burial will be in Leo Cemetery.

Calling will be Tuesday from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. and Wednesday from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Cedar Canyon Fire Department.

The EVENING STAR
2007 Auburn, Indiana
September 2

## Lois Reddy

AUBURN — Lois M. Reddy, 84, of Auburn died Saturday, Sept. 1, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital.

Mrs. Reddy

Mrs. Reddy was a homemaker who enjoyed reading, sewing, gardening and garage sales.

She was born April 6, 1923, in Edgerton, Ohio to Lawrence and Faye (Ordway) Green who preceded her in death. She married Paul Ennis in October 1941. He preceded her in death in May 1958.

She married James Reddy in February 1960. He preceded her in death in November 1991.

Surviving are one son and a daughter-in-law, David and June Ennis of Kendallville; two daughters and sons-in-law, Luanne and Howard Hanes of Advance, N.C., and Lana and Paul Howard of Auburn; one brother and sister-in-law, Paul and Darlene Green of Columbia, Ohio; two sisters and a brother in-law, Opal Myers of Auburn and Maxine and Don Heers of Marcello, Mich.; one brother-in-law, George Wills of Hamilton; five grandchildren and their spouses, Laurie and Dean Capps, Kent and Jennifer Ennis, Mark Hanes and John Mascazine, Doug and Jennifer Hanes and Tracy and Mohammed Fazel; seven great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

She also was preceded in death by two brothers, Lawrence Green Jr. and Robert Green; and one sister, Helen Wills.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home in Auburn, with the Rev. Dr. Dan Barker officiating. Burial will be at Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Calling will be from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society.

The EVENING STAR
2007 Auburn, Indiana
September 4

## Phyllis Willard

BUTLER — Phyllis M. Willard, 73, died Sunday at the Laurels of DeKalb nursing home in Butler.

Mrs. Willard retired from Universal Tool in Butler on March 31, 1994, after 29 years of service. She was a member of Christ's Church in Butler.

She was born Feb. 2, 1934, in DeKalb County to Curtis and Flora Mae (Clear) Henderson. They preceded her in death.

She married John Willard on Sept. 6, 1953, in Waterloo. He died Dec. 20, 1981.

Surviving are two sons, Henry Willard of Cromwell and Aaron Willard of Butler; a foster son, Tom Haupert of Butler; a daughter, Ida Fender of Butler; two foster daughters, Susie Demorest of Angola and Juneva Hefty of Fort Wayne; six grandchildren; seven foster grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by four brothers, two sisters and one grandson.

Services will be Thursday at 11 a.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. Dale Rabineau will officiate. Burial will be in Big Run Cemetery near Butler.

Calling will be Wednesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Christ's Church.

The EVENING STAR
2007 Auburn, Indiana
September 5

# Funeral arrangements set for WOWO's Bob Sievers

FORT WAYNE — Longtime WOWO radio personality Robert S. "Bob" Sievers, 90, of Fort Wayne died Monday, Sept. 3, 2007, at Riverbend Health Care Center in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Sievers

A native of Fort Wayne, Mr. Sievers had worked at WOWO for 50 years.

He was a U.S. Navy veteran and was a commander during World War II and the Korean War. He co-authored the first instructional manual for radar operations while in the Navy.

Mr. Sievers was a member of the Lutheran Church of Our Savior, charter member of the Foster Park Lions Club and a board member of the S.P.C.A. and the Diehm Museum. He was also a member of the Fort Wayne Amateur Radio Club, the Naval Reserve of Fort Wayne and the Retired Officers Association.

Surviving are his wife, Harriet, of Fort Wayne; two daughters and sons-in-law, Carolyn and Mal Davis of Wautoma, Wis., and Cynthia and Greg Fett of Toledo, Ohio; four granddaughters, Dana Schoof, Jennifer Fett, Lisa Fett and Lindsay and Jason Miller; and two great-grandchildren, Devin and Jade Miller.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at D.O. McComb & Sons Foster Park Funeral Home, Fort Wayne. Burial will be in Greenlawn Memorial Park.

Calling will be from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Allen County S.P.C.A. or WOWO Penny Pitch Fund.

## Donald Baird

KENDALLVILLE — Donald Eugene Baird, 76, of Kendallville died Monday, Sept. 3, 2007, at his home.

Mr. Baird

Mr. Baird was an owner-operator truck driver for many years. He had also worked as a mechanic with K&M Garage in Wolcottville for 12 years, as well as at MY Transport at Topeka for 12 years. For the past 20 years, he had repaired and restored antique furniture.

He was a member of First Baptist Church in Wolcottville.

Mr. Baird enjoyed woodworking and antique furniture repair and loved to go fishing and spend time with his dog, Sophie. He was known as a "people person." He always kept horses for his children to raise and ride.

He was born in Fairfield Township, DeKalb County, on Jan. 8, 1931, to Ray and Hilda (Sherwood) Baird. He first married Velma Hileman and she died in 1984. He then married Helen Ethel Keck on Oct. 20, 1986, and she survives.

Also surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Mike and Marilyn Baird of Wolcottville and Bobby and Tammy Baird of Brighton; three daughters and sons-in-law, Teresa and Jeff Sampson of Sturgis, Mich., Sarah Jane and Don Ritchie of Orland and Brenda and Randall Scott of Ontario, Ind.; seven stepdaughters and their husbands, Jan and Garey Bollinger of LaGrange, Nancy and Ken Helsel of Adams Lake, Linda and Richard Kreider of Dallas Lake, Kelly and Bill Ward, Marie and Dave Burchand and BJ and John Brown, all of Bryan, Ohio, and Sandra and Albert Babcock of Archbold, Ohio; 34 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren; four brothers and sisters-in-law, Lyle and Martha Baird of Auburn, Larry and Kay Baird of Hicksville, Ohio, Jack and Cindy Baird of Topeka and Billy and Johanna Baird of Ligonier; and two sisters, Patty Pierce of Kendallville and Tarena Longsworth of Kendallville.

He was also preceded in death by his parents; two infant sons, Donnie Gene and Eddie Baird; four brothers, Wilbur, Gary, Merlin and Dallas; and a sister, Evelyn Payton.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville with the Rev. Carldean Merrifield and Harry Smith, deacon from First Baptist Church, officiating. Burial will be in Greenwood Cemetery in LaGrange. Pallbearers will be Adam Bollinger, Brandon Bollinger, Chad Helsel, Austin Burch, Buddy Babcock and Matthew Ward.

Calling will be from 3-8 p.m. today at the funeral home. Preferred memorials may be made to Parkview Noble Hospice or to the First Baptist Church.

View a video tribute (after today) or send condolences to www.hitefuneralhome.com

# Ohio Rep. Gillmor found dead in his apartment Wednesday

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ohio Rep. Paul Gillmor, a Republican whose political career covered four decades, has died, party officials said.

"Born, raised and educated in our home state of Ohio, Paul never lost sight of the reason he came to Congress — to serve this great institution and his constituents with dedication and distinction," House Republican Leader John Boehner, also of Ohio, said in a statement.

"With the passing of Paul Gillmor, the people of northwest Ohio have lost a favorite son," said House Republican Conference Chairman Adam Putnam, R-Fla.

The body of the 68-year-old congressman was found by staff members who went to his apartment Wednesday after he failed to show up for work, according to a Republican aide who spoke on condition of anonymity pending an official announcement.There was no immediate word on the cause of his death.

Gillmor's office did not respond to a reporter's call.

Gillmor had been in Ohio last week to attend a series of town meetings and tour areas of the state that were hit hard by flooding. "His sudden passing is a shock to us all and he will be greatly missed," Ohio House Speaker Jon Husted said in a statement.

Gillmor, who represented Ohio's heavily Republican 5th District in the Bowling Green area, was first elected to Congress in 1988.

He served as a Vietnam War-era judge advocate in the Air Force after graduating law school, won a seat in the Ohio state senate in 1966, and served there for 22 years, rising to the senate presidency. After an unsuccessful run for governor in 1986, Gillmor was elected to the U.S. House in 1988 after eking out a 27-vote victory in the primary.

As a House member he was a little-known but solid Republican vote, a reliable conservative on social issues, and a strong proponent of the military.

He led legislative efforts in such areas as cleanups of commercially contaminated sites known as brownfields and enacting financial service reforms. He was also a strong advocate of a constitutional amendment to ban unfunded mandates on the states.

He is survived by his wife, Karen, and five children.

## Doloris Peachy

KENDALLVILLE — Doloris Ruth Peachy, 79, of Kendallville died Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2007, at Parkview Memorial Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Peachy

Mrs. Peachy was a homemaker.

She was a member of Trinity Church United Methodist.

She was born near Helmer in DeKalb County on Dec. 5, 1927, to Henry and Clara (Hovarter) Gardner, and graduated from Ashley High School in 1945.

She married Willis E. Peachy on April 5, 1947, in Kendallville. He survives in Kendallville.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, David and Jean Peachy of Kendallville; a daughter and son-in-law, Karen and Dennis Moore of Danville, Ky.; and eight grandchildren and their spouses, Kim and John McIntrye of Lexington, Ky., Matthew and Nikki Moore of Bowling Green, Ky., Jennifer and Robbie Ellis of Gravel Switch, Ky., Rebekah and David Baker of Lexington, Lisa and Jared Olivetti of West Lafayette, Zachary Peachy of Pittsburgh, Pa., Tamara Peachy of Fort Wayne and Deborah Peachy of Los Angeles, Calif.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a sister, Hilda Leighty; and a brother, Warren Gardner.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Hite Funeral Home with Pastor Scott Pattison officiating. Burial will be in Lake View Cemetery at Kendallville. Pallbearers will be her grandchildren.

Calling will be from 3:30-7 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Trinity Church United Methodist.

Condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

## Carlyle Pio

PAYNE, Ohio — Carlyle W. "Bud" Pio, formerly of Corunna, died Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2007 at Paulding County (Ohio) Hospital where he had been a patient for six days.

Mr. Pio was the founder of Pio Markets in Fort Wayne.

He spent some of his retirement years at Pretty Lake in northeastern Indiana and Avon Park, Fla. He was a private pilot and a charter member of the first Flying Club at Smith Field in Fort Wayne and was inducted into the Hall of Fame at the Fort Wayne Aviation Museum.

He was born May 30, 1912, in Payne, Ohio, to William and Myrtle (Skinner) Pio. He spent his childhood in Payne, and the last year of his life. He was married to Catherine Genevieve (Jones). She preceded him in death in 1977.

Surviving are daughters Barbara Gorney of Fort Wayne and Sue Kratzman of Corunna; seven grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; an older sister, Cecile Neuenschwander of Payne; a brother, Robert Pio of Avon Park, Fla.; and an uncle, Russell Skinner of Fort Wayne.

He was also preceded in death by a son-in-law, Don Gorney, in 1977.

Services will be Sunday at 3 p.m. at Covington Memorial Funeral Home.

Calling will be two hours before the service at the funeral home.

Memorials are to EAA Chapter 2, Young Eagles.

To sign the guest book, visit www.covingtonmemorial.com.

The EVENING STAR
2007 Auburn, Indiana
September 9

# Educator Gene Rhodes touched many lives

BY DENNIS NARTKER
dennisn@kpcnews.net

His impact on local education was immense. His community-mindedness was no less remarkable.

Eugene Neal Rhodes touched the lives of thousands of people.

"All Gene and I wanted was to see students do their best and become good citizens," his wife Virginia "Ginny" Rhodes told me last week.

Mr. Rhodes, 76, died Friday, Aug. 31, 2007, at Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home in Fort Wayne.

He was a principal at East Noble High School from 1972 to 1980, one of only six in the school's history, and a principal, health and biology teacher and a basketball and baseball head coach at Kendallville High School.

"I was hired in 1974 by Gene to teach at East Noble High School after graduating from Michigan State University," said East Noble teacher Don Manger. "He was a great mentor for me as a young teacher, and we always shared our love for MSU." Mr. Rhodes was a 1953 graduate of Michigan State University, a member of MSU's basketball team (coached by Hall of Fame honoree Pete Newell), Army ROTC and Sigma Nu Fraternity. He was a graduate assistant and earned his master's degree in education and mycology at MSU.

"As a new teacher I was not afraid of him, rather I knew I could go to him for any type of help," said Manger. "In later years he always wanted to know how my family was doing. He was really a great leader of his staff and an innovator."

Mr. Rhodes was the ESEA Title III Project Coordinator instituting flexible modular scheduling before he replaced the late Royal Tritch as East Noble High School principal. He also spearheaded the National Demonstration School project, hosting hundreds of national and international visitors to the school.

His innovative ideas were included in the new East Noble High School that opened in the fall of 1966.

"Gene was instrumental in the start up of East Noble High School and the modular scheduling system," said retired East Noble principal Rich Anderson. Mr. Rhodes was a big promoter of East Noble High School in uniting all parts of eastern Noble County (Avilla, Rome City and Kendallville) into one high school, he added.

Anderson came to East Noble High School in 1967 to teach social studies, and credits Mr. Rhodes with allowing the social studies teachers to develop new elective classes and try a variety of teaching ideas.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Eugene and Virginia Rhodes.**

Mr. Rhodes' innovative ideas led East Noble High School to being named as Indiana's Pacemaker in educational improvement in 1968 in a nationwide school recognition project sponsored by the National Education Association (N.E.A.) and Parade magazine. At the 105th annual N.E.A. covention in 1968 the high school was given a citation for its flexible programming which emphasized innovation and independent study. East Noble also received special recognition from the Kettering Foundation as being one of the nation's most thoughtfully innovative schools in 1968.

For Anderson, who served as East Noble High School principal from 1983 to 2000, Mr. Rhodes was his early mentor and one who got him into school administration.

Freshmen entered East Noble in the fall of 1972. Oren Skinner was the new assistant principal and Mr. Rhodes soon realized he needed more administrative help. He asked Anderson, an East Noble teacher at the time, to join the administrative team.

"Gene said to me 'give it a try and if you don't like it you can go back into the classroom next fall,'" said Anderson. "I highly respected him and greatly appreciated the opportunity he gave me to get involved in administration."

Retired East Noble teacher and coach Fred Inniger said Mr. Rhodes had a passion for excellence in everything he did. "He wanted everyone to do the very best they could and would push people to set high goals and expectations."

Both Anderson and Inniger said Mr. Rhodes had a kind heart.

"He was a people person who cared about the whole person and was a father, teacher, coach, counselor, motivator and cheerleader to his students, players and staff," said Inniger.

"He encouraged students to become involved both in the classroom and in extra curricular activities. He wanted them to have a complete school experience," said Anderson.

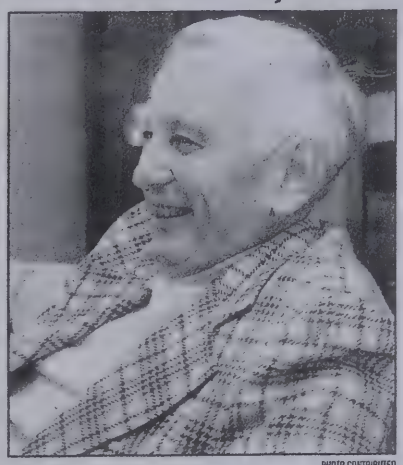

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Eugene Rhodes 1931-2007**

After serving as principal, Mr. Rhodes was a health teacher at the high school until his retirement. He was an educator for 34 years.

He was a member of the U.S. Army 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C., and honorably discharged as a first lieutenant before his career in education. He was also an award-winning sales representative for Minnesota Mutual Life Insurance Co.

Outside of education, Mr. Rhodes was involved in community endeavors. He established Little League baseball in Kendallville and helped construct the Garden Street ball diamonds.

As a longtime member and president of the Kendallville Lions Club, he helped start the "Band-O-Rama" marching band competition in Kendallville.

He was the initial chief of judges for the Indiana State Science Fair, and a volunteer for the International Science and Engineering Fair.

Mr. Rhodes loved gardening, and was always bringing in things to school he had grown, like flowers, recalled Anderson.

Mr. Rhodes was one of the originators of the Wednesday Night Card group that included other former East Noble school teachers and administrators like John Reed, Bill Abbs, Wendell Beck, Dale Reade, Bob Czupryn, Inniger and Anderson.

On a personal note, when I returned to Kendallville from teaching in Australia in August 1976, I had few teaching job prospects but learned an English teaching position was open to me at the high school. I have no doubt Mr. Rhodes was instrumental in giving me the opportunity to teach at my high school alma mater.

At the end of the school year when I was offered a graduate teaching assistantship at Ball State University in the journalism department, I remember shaking with emotion going into Mr. Rhodes' office to inform him. He encouraged me to "go for it" and pursue a post-graduate degree. His support gave me the confidence to move on.

In his later years, after undergoing successful heart and kidney transplant operations, Mr. Rhodes became a spokesman for organ donation.

"He was a huge contributor to the community," said Anderson.

Inniger, who served as a pallbearer at Mr. Rhodes' funeral this week, summed up his life.

"Gene touched so many lives in a positive manner. He loved his family, his students, Michigan State, East Noble and life and gave evey ounce of energy to make everything the best it could be. The world needs more people like Gene Rhodes."

Mr. Rhodes was buried Wednesday at Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by two daughters and sons-in-law, Lori Ellen and Christopher Patterson, Knoxville, Tenn., and Lynda Suzanne and Robert Stewart, Lexington, Ky.; grandsons, Bryan, Andrew and Thomas Patterson, all of Knoxville, Tenn.; a sister and brother-in-law, Betty and Gerald Goss, Plymouth, Ind.; and several nieces and nephews.

A daughter, Wendy Lynne Rhodes in 1979; a sister, Mary Luann Spieth in 2006; and his parents preceded him in death.

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## Bertha Dean

AUBURN — Bertha E. Dean, 87, of Auburn died Friday, Sept. 7, 2007, at Miller's Merry Manor in Garrett.

Mrs. Dean

She moved to the Auburn area in 1941. She worked as a clerk at J.C. Penney for 25 years before retiring in 1978. She also worked for several years on the election board.

She was a member of the Auburn United Methodist Church and the OWLS class of the church. She was an active member of the Heimach Center. A member of the DeKalb County Democratic Women's Assoc., Eastern Star, Phythesis Sisters, Fort Wayne Shrine Aux., American Legion Auxiliary and VFW Auxiliary. She volunteered at DeKalb Memorial Hospital, for the American Heart Association and the Auburn Cord Duesenburg Museum. She was also a member of the Classic Ladies Social Club, Red Hat Society and Director's Club at Wagon Wheel Theatre in Warsaw.

She was born in Essex, Ontario, Canada, on Aug. 5, 1920, to the late Silas and Annie (Julke) Reeb.

Her first husband, Alfred Kettles, died in 1950. She married Howard Dean on Aug. 16, 1952. He preceded her in death in 1988.

She is survived by a son and daughter-in-law, Terry and Diane Dean of Auburn; and daughter, Shirley Rhody of Hobart; a brother, Norman Reeb of Essex, Ontario, Canada; seven grand children and spouses, Jeff and Sonya Rhody, Julie Rhody Newwirth, Mandy Dean, Megan Dean, Mallory Dean, Trace Dean and Jeremy and Cassie Dean; five great grandchildren; and a close friend Robert Love.

She was preceded in death by two sons, Howard and Marty Dean; a son-in-law, Moe Rhody; five brothers and three sisters, including Margaret Shannon, formerly Auburn.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Wilber Yates officiating. Burial will be in Roselawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. on Monday at the funeral home.

An Easter Star service will Monday at the funeral home. Memorials may be directed to the American Cancer Society or the American Heart Association.

## Rebecca Cain

FORT WAYNE — Rebecca "Becky" K. Cain, 69, of Fort Wayne and formerly of Auburn died Sunday, Sept. 9, 2007, at Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Cain was a loan officer for Dana Federal Credit Union for 15 years, retiring in 1990. she moved to Arizona after retiring and worked for the State of Arizona, caring for drug babies and those born with AIDS. She then lived in Michigan, before returning to Fort Wayne in 2000.

She was a 1956 graduate of St. Joe High School and a former member of the American Legion Auxiliary. She bowled for many years in the Auburn Bowling League.

She was born May 1, 1938, in Fort Wayne to the late Austin and Mildred (Grogg) Hartz.

She married John E. Cain Jr. on June 28, 1974, in Auburn. He survives.

Also surviving are one son, Lloyd "Kevin" Smith of Greensboro, N.C.; two daughters and a son-in-law, Lori K. and Alan High of Waterloo and Lisa K. Zehner of Kendallville; three brothers and sisters-in-law, Steven and Eden Hartz of Spencerville, Michael and Sue Harts of Valparaiso and David and Diane Harts of Fort Wayne; three sisters and two brothers-in-law, Paula J. and Richard Roberts of St. Joe, Dianne and Gene Woodworth of Waterloo and Debbie Barton of Kokomo; five grandsons, Matthew L. Zehner and his wife, Sarah, Aaron E. Zehner, Gregory J. Zehner, Zachary A. High and Brent High; two great-grandchildren, Jada N. Zehner and Jared A. Zehner; and her stepfather, Eugene Dillman of Auburn.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a sister, Linda L. Hahns.

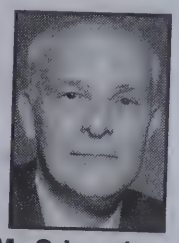
Services will be Thursday at 11 a.m. at the Auburn Church of the Nazarene. The Rev. Dan White will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Wednesday from 2-8 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, and Thursday from 10-11 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to the family.

## James Schroeder

ANGOLA — James A. Schroeder, 74, of Jimmerson Lake died Friday, Sept. 7, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.


Mr. Schroeder

He was employed at Dana Corp. for 30 years, retiring in 1989.

He was a member of Messiah Lutheran Church.

He was born in Toledo, Ohio, to Homer and Dorothy Schroeder, who both preceded him in death. He was married to Sandra Schroeder, who survives.

Also surviving are three sons and daughters-in-law, Douglas and Lucy Schroeder, Todd and Alicia Schroeder, and Scott and Tracey Schroeder, all of Fort Wayne; seven grandchildren; four brothers, Robert Schroeder of North Fort Myers, Fla., Richard Schroeder of Toledo, Donald Schroeder of Whitehouse, Ohio, and David Schroeder of Perrysburg, Ohio.

A private service is scheduled Thursday at D.O. McComb and Sons Funeral Home in Fort Wayne.

There is no visitation.

Memorials are to the American Diabetes Association.

## Rhonda Haynes

GARRETT — Rhonda Lue Haynes, 53, of Garrett died Sunday, Sept. 9, 2007, at Select Specialty Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Haynes was the vice president of Garrett State Bank, where she had worked for the past 36 years. She was a member of the Gold Wing Road Riders Association.

She was born Oct. 21, 1953, in Garrett to Charles L. and Beverly (Aldrich) Hathaway. They preceded her in death.

She married Greg L. Haynes on June 26, 1976, in Garrett. He survives in Garrett.

Also surviving are a daughter, Michele Marie Haynes of Garrett; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Charles J. and Carol Hathaway of Garrett and Steven L. and Mary Hathaway of Garrett; a sister, Roxanne Desouzaguedes of Garrett; and several nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Services will be Friday at 1 p.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. Robert Bell officiating. Burial will be in the Christian Union Cemetery in rural Garrett.

Calling will be Thursday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Humane Society.

## Jimmy Wood

WATERLOO — Jimmy D. Wood, 47, of Waterloo died Saturday, Sept. 8, 2007, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Wood worked at Foamex in Auburn.

He was born April 30, 1960, in Toledo, Ohio, to Dale and Barbara Wood. They preceded him in death.

Surviving are a sister and brother-in-law, Tina and Sean Landers of Auburn; an uncle and aunt, Wilbur and Sharon Lewis of Garrett; and two nieces, Dawn Monroe of Kendallville and Misty Myers of Columbia City.

He was preceded in death by a great-niece, Desiree Monroe.

A memorial service will be Saturday, Sept. 22, from 11-11:30 a.m., at the Auburn Church of Christ, 208 W. Eighteenth St. (Eighteenth and Jackson streets). Calling will be from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the church for those who are unable to attend the service.

Feller Funeral Home of Waterloo is handling arrangements.

Memorials are to the American heart Association, the Kidney Foundation or the American Diabetes Association.

## Elaine Clark

WATERLOO — Elaine G. Clark, 75, of Waterloo died Sunday, Sept. 9, 2007, at Lutheran Homes in Fort Wayne.

She worked at Universal Tool from 1987 to 1994. In 1996 she went to work for Colwell General.

She was an active member of New Hope Christian Center in Waterloo and loved to garden.

She was born Oct. 16, 1931, in Clio, Mich., to George and Grace (Brady) Storrs.

Surviving are a son, David Lewis Clark of Hicksville, Ohio; two daughters, Deborah Ann Hughes of Fort Wayne and Rhonda Marie Galaviz of Mexico; three brothers, Robert Storrs of Flint, Mich., Eldon Storrs of Bay City, Mich., and Theodore Storrs of Durand, Mich.; six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, George "Jack" Storrs.

Services will be Thursday at 2 p.m. at New Hope Christian Center, 900 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. Ralph Diehl officiating. Burial will be in the Waterloo Cemetery.

Calling will be Wednesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, and Thursday from 1-2 p.m. at the church Thursday.

Memorials are to a charity of the donor's choice.

## Desirea Price

GARRETT — Desirea Michelle Price, an infant, died Saturday, Sept. 8, 2007, at Dupont Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Surviving are her parents, Josh Price and Kayleen Barger of Garrett; her maternal grandparents, Jeff and Barb Barger of Garrett; a great-grandmother, Helen Barger of Garrett; a great-great-grandfather, Eldon Montgomery of Sellersville, Ky.; a great-grandmother, Loreva Clair of Ohio; a grandmother, Cathy Griffith of Garrett; a grandfather, Phillip Price Sr. of Garrett; and a great-grandfather, Robert Price Sr.

She was preceded in death by a paternal grandfather, Billy Barger; and grandparents Charles and Matilda Burniston.

Private services will be held.

McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, is handling arrangements.

## Richard Russell

CORUNNA — Richard R. "Rick" Russell, 28, of rural Corunna died Friday, Sept. 7, 2007, at his home.

Mr. Russell

He had been an area resident for the past 10 months and was employed at Courier Printing in Kendallville.

He attended Grace Christian Church of Kendallville.

Mr. Russell was a graduate of Transcona High School in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. He was an outstanding high school athlete who participated in football and excelled in wrestling. He made the International Traveling Wrestling Squad and was undefeated for three years. He also enjoyed archery.

Following high school, he attended several trade schools and was in the process of becoming a journeyman.

He was born June 28, 1979, in Seymour to Pastor Jeffry R. Sr. and Donna (Denton) Russell. They survive in Kokomo.

Also surviving are a son, Bradley K. Russell of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada; two sisters and brothers-in-law, Ashleigh and Ben Easley and Jessica and Chad Tomlinson, all of Kokomo; three nieces, Trinity Easley, and Makaila and Madison Tomlinson; paternal grandparents, Bill Russell of Hopkins, Minn., and Tillie Hensley of Kingman, Ariz.; and maternal grandmother, Christine Oathout of Seymour.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Jeffry R. Russell Jr.; a nephew, Colin Tomlinson; his maternal stepgrandfather, Ray Oathout; maternal grandfather, Charles Denton; and an aunt, Brenda Denton.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday at Shirley and Stout Funeral Home, Lincoln Road Chapel, 1315 W. Lincoln Road, Kokomo, with the Rev. Chris Mosley, pastor of Grace Christian Church of Kendallville, officiating, assisted by Mr. Russell's uncle, the Rev. Pat Russell, a missionary from Africa. Burial will be in Albright Cemetery in Kokomo.

Calling will be from 4-8 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Memorial are to New Beginnings Christian Fellowship.

Online condolences are to www.shirleyandstout.com.

## Grace Shumaker

SEGUIN, Texas — Grace (Kuckuck) Shumaker, 91, of Seguin and formerly of Indiana, died Friday, Sept. 7, 2007, in Seguin.

Mrs. Shumaker was born July 14, 1916, in Indiana.

Among her survivors are two sons, Stephen and his family of St. Joe, Ind., and Stanley and his family; two brothers, Edgar and Grant; and a sister, Beatrice.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Harlan.

Mrs. Shumaker dearly loved her family and friends. She especially cherished her Creator and the gift of His only-begotten Son.

Memorial services will be held at a later date.

Finch Funeral Chapel in La Vernia, Texas, is in charge of arrangements.

Condolences may be sent online to www.finchfuneralchapels.com.

## Berniece Crabtree

ORRVILLE, Ohio — Berniece (Cross-Davis) Crabtree, 95, died Friday, Sept. 7, 2007, at Brennfield Nursing Center in Orrville, Ohio.

Mrs. Crabtree

She was born Aug. 27, 1912, in Mark Center, Ohio, to the late Volney and Carrie (Singleton) Cross.

Her first husband, Fredrick Davis, died in 1939. She then married Howard Crabtree on Sept. 17, 1954. He survives.

Also surviving are two daughters and a son-in-law, Doris Schortgen of Waterloo and Dorothy and Cliff Reece of Lodi, Ohio; a son and daughter-in-law, Dorman and Beverly Davis of Butler; two sisters, Opal Reed and Helen Miller, both of Auburn; nine grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren and 22 great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a son, Donald, one sister, Alice Bice, two brothers, Raymond and Robert Cross, and one great-grandson.

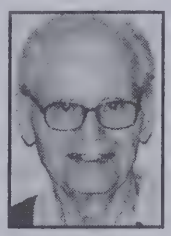
Services will be Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. in Parker Funeral Home of Lodi, Ohio. Burial will be at the Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery in Seville, Ohio.

Calling is tonight from 7-9 at the funeral home.

The EVENING STAR
2007 Auburn, Indiana
September 11

## Donald Garman Sr.

ALBION — Donald W. Garman Sr., 88, of Williams Lake near Albion died unexpectedly Monday, Sept. 10, 2007, at his home.


Mr. Garman

Mr. Garman had moved to Williams Lake in 1974 from Huntertown.

He was a graduate of Huntertown High School.

Mr. Garman had been employed as a carpenter with several firms and in 1980 retired as a carpenter from International Harvester in Fort Wayne with 19 years of service.

He was a member of Wolf Lake United Methodist Church.

Mr. Garman enjoyed fishing, playing cards, mushroom hunting and watching sporting events, especially Chicago Cubs baseball games.

He will be remembered as a gracious man who was loved by his church and the community.

He was born Dec. 5, 1918, in Allen County to Jay W. and Lottie (Klinger) Garman. He married Hazel A. Kniss on July 20, 1940. She died Jan. 13, 1997.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Donald W. "Bill" Garman Jr. and his wife, Linda; a daughter, Rosemary Rhodes of Avilla; a sister, Betty Anderson of Auburn; three grandchildren and their spouses, Sandra and Kevin Appenzeller and Dan and Janell Garman, all of Fort Wayne, and Bryan and Lisa Rhodes of Avilla; and eight great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Ray Garman.

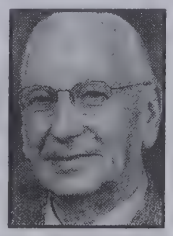
Services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at Wolf Lake United Methodist Church with Pastor Wray McCalester officiating. Burial will be in Huntertown Cemetery.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Wednesday at Sheets & Childs Funeral Home in Churubusco and one hour prior to services Thursday at the church.

Memorials are to Wolf Lake United Methodist Church.

## William Kuhlman

AUBURN — William F. "Bill" Kuhlman, 81, of Auburn died Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2007, at 2:30 a.m. at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.


Mr. Kuhlman

Mr. Kuhlman worked as the superintendent for Auburn Printing Co. from 1946-1973 and as the advertising manager for Flint & Walling in Kendallville for more than 20 years, retiring in 1994.

He was a 1944 graduate of Auburn High School. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II from 1944-46 in the South Pacific aboard a landing ship tank (LST). He was a 50-year member of Masonic Lodge 214 of Auburn and Eastern Star 103 and a life member of American Legion Post 97 in Auburn. He was a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church. He loved golfing.

He was born Sept. 11, 1926, in Auburn to Frank P. and Irma (Bassett) Kuhlman.

He married Dorothy F. Johnson on Dec. 16., 1945, in Auburn. She survives.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, John W. and Sharon Kuhlman of Waterloo; a daughter and son-in-law, Cathy K. and Tom Draggoo of Woodbridge, Va.; a sister, June Paine of Goshen; a sister-in-law, Mildred Lemper of Auburn; and three grandchildren, Adam Rosswurm and his wife, April, of Auburn, and Jennifer and Bethany Draggoo of Woodbridge, Va.

Services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. in St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 211 W. Ninth St., Auburn. Pastor Stephen Kummernuss will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Friday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, and Saturday from 10-11 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

## Richard Russell

KENDALLVILLE — A memorial service will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday at Grace Christian Church, 126 E. Mitchell St., for Richard "Rick" Russell of rural Corunna.

Pastor Nathan Mosely will officiate at the service.

Members of Mr. Russell's family will greet friends from 2-9 p.m.

Mr. Russell died Friday, Sept. 7, 2007, at his home.

## Jessiemay Bauman

AUBURN — Jessiemay M. Bauman, 94, of Auburn died Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mrs. Bauman was a homemaker. She attended St. John's Lutheran Church in Kendallville and was a member and past president of the Keyser Township Homemakers Club.

She was born May 28, 1913, in Garrett to John and Maudie (Moughler) Applegate.

She married George F. Bauman on June 14, 1931, in Walkerton. He died June 27, 1979.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Michael G. and Marjorie Bauman of Auburn and Patrick S. and Ruth Bauman of Ballwin, Mo.; a daughter and son-in-law, Marylou and Kenneth Ort of Auburn; a sister, Gwen Conkle of Auburn; 10 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a son, Ted L. Bauman; a brother, John Applegate Jr.; and six sisters, Thelma Miller, Dorothy Nodine, Neva Gordy, Virginia Applegate, Kathleen Collins and Billie Jo Teegarden.

Services will be Friday at 10 a.m. at the Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with Pastor Paul Griebel officiating. Burial will be in the Christian Union Cemetery in rural Garrett.

Calling will be Thursday from 4-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to St. John's Lutheran School in Kendallville.

## Lee Shanabarger

AUBURN — Lee R. Shanabarger, 86, of Auburn died Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2007, at Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla.

**Mr. Shanabarger**

Mr. Shanabarger worked at General Electric in Fort Wayne for 38 1/2 years before retiring in 1981. He was a member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn and the Loyal Order of the Moose 97 in Auburn.

He was born Oct. 21, 1920, in Noble County to Ralph and Effie (Tarlton) Shanabarger.

He married Louise J. Muzzillo in Auburn on Jan. 5, 1946. She survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are two daughters and a son-in-law, Sister Joyce L. Shanabarger of Buffalo Grove, Ill., and Rita A. and John Lumm of Lexington, Ohio; two grandchildren, Ryan Lumm of Columbus, Ohio, and Abby Lumm of Cincinnati, Ohio; two sisters and brothers-in-law, Norma Waters and Riley Waters Jr. of Muldrow, Okla., and Grace and Lester "Pete" Keister of Albion; one brother, Morris "Bill" Shanabarger of Churubusco; one sister-in-law, Joan Shanabarger-Keller of Churubusco; members of the Louis and Angeline Muzzillo family; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Glenn Shanabarger and Robert "Bob" Shanabarger.

Services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 500 E. Seventh St., Auburn, with Father Michael Zuelke officiating. Burial will be in Auburn Catholic Cemetery.

Calling will be Friday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn.

Memorials are to Provena Sacred Heart Home or DeKalb Memorial Hospital.

## Sylvia Kelton

WATERLOO — Sylvia A. Kelton, 72, of Waterloo, died Monday, Sept. 10, 2007, at her home.

Mrs. Kelton was a former school teacher. She was a member of Holy Family Episcopal Church in Angola and its Daughters of the King group. She was a lifetime member of the Fort Wayne Beagle Club and had been active in Girl Scouts.

She was born Aug. 17, 1935, in Paterson, N.J.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Wayne H. and Michele Kelton of Waterloo; a daughter and son-in-law, Sharon M. and Jimmy Kraftchak of Herson, Va.; and five grandchildren, Vera Amanda Kraftchak, Dethina Marie Kraftchak, Crystal Lee Kraftchak, Maria Theresia Kelton and Wayne A.J. Kelton.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Harvey L., who died in 1994, a sister, Nancy H. White, and her parents, Richard and Martha White.

A memorial service will be Saturday at 1 p.m. at Holy Family Episcopal Church, South Darling Street, Angola. The Rev. Father Theran Landsford will officiate. Burial will be in Memorial Garden at Holy Family Episcopal Church.

Memorials are to the Kidney Foundation or the Diabetes Association.

Hockemeyer & Miller Funeral Home, 6131 St. Joe Road, Fort Wayne, is handling arrangements.

## Anna Fulk

CHURUBUSCO — Anna Lee Fulk, 78, of Ligonier and formerly of Albion died at 7:20 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 13, 2007, at Avalon Village in Ligonier where she had been a resident the past three years.

Mrs. Fulk had retired in 1993 after 23 years of service with Wolf Lake Products.

She had lived in Eel River Township and graduated from Huntertown High School in 1946. Following her marriage she lived in Churubusco and moved to Albion in 1963.

She was born Oct. 16, 1928, in Fort Wayne to Maurice and Blanche (Remaly) Adams. She married Harold R. Fulk on April 25, 1948. He died May 1, 1985.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Vickie and Gary Smith of Albion; four grandchildren, Misty Smith-Pegan and Jeremiah Smith, both of Kendallville, Nickie Allen Fulk Jr. of Traverse City, Mich., and Tyler Fulk of Garrett; and seven great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by three sons, Rickie Fulk, David Fulk and Nickie Fulk; and three brothers, Eugene Adams, Dale Adams and Lyle Adams.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Sunday at Sheets & Childs Funeral Home in Churubusco with the Rev. Carroll McNutt of the Ari Church of God officiating. Burial will be in Eel River Cemetery.

Calling will be from 2-8 p.m. Saturday and one hour prior to services Sunday.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society.

## Martha Wiler

AUBURN — Martha J. Wiler, 77, of Auburn died Thursday, Sept. 13, 2007, at her home.

Mrs. Wiler worked as an inspector at Cooper Tire & Rubber Co. in Auburn for 36 years, retiring in 1992. She attended the former Missionary Church in Auburn. She loved to bowl.

She was born Feb. 22, 1930, in Marshall County to Kenneth M. and Ruby B. (Kanarr) VanGilder.

She married M. Lyle Wiler on Nov. 21, 1953, in Angola. He survives.

Also surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Tina M. and Michael Metzger of Auburn; a sister and brother-in-law, Rosemary and Robert Neff of Columbus; three grandchildren, Tyler Tharpe, Kelly Rowe, and Greg Metzger; and five great-grandchildren, Kyle Rowe, Taylor Rowe, Emily Rowe, Jack Tharpe and Becca Metzger.

She was preceded in death by her parents; one brother, Junior VanGilder; and one sister, Wilma Shorts.

Services will be Tuesday at 2 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Monday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. and Tuesday from 1-2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society.

The EVENING STAR
September 15 2007 Auburn, Indiana

## Virginia Fee

AUBURN — Virginia Fee, 82, of Auburn died Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2007, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Fee was a teacher at Ashley High School and later served as a substitute teacher at DeKalb High School.

She was a member of the Auburn Presbyterian Church, where she had served as an elder and a deacon. She was active in the church's Omega Fellowship.

She was a member of the former Auburn Woman's Club and the Kenwigs Literary Club. She was especially fond of her pet dog, Apache.

She graduated from Covington High School and then from Purdue University in 1947.

She was born Aug. 28, 1925, in Covington to Homer and Effie (Myers) McDonald.

She married Leland Fee of Hamilton on July 10, 1948, in Covington, and he survives.

Also surviving are five children and their spouses, Christine and Albert Cavazos of LaJoya, Texas, Brian and Lanette Fee of Chapel Hill, N.C., Lisa Baum of Hobe Sound, Fla., David Fee of Gainesville, Ga., and Janet and Michael Fisher of Valrico, Fla.; seven grandchildren, John, Melissa and Amelia Fee, Bradley and Tyler Baum and Ryan and Zachary Fisher; three stepgrandchildren, Albert, Jaime and Carlos Cavazos; and a brother and sister-in-law, Homer and Esteleen McDonald of Hillsboro.

Services will be Monday at 11 a.m. in the Auburn Presbyterian Church with the Rev. Nancy Becker and the Rev. William Haworth officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-6 p.m. at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn.

The family requests that no flowers be sent. Memorials are to the Auburn Presbyterian Church.

The EVENING STAR
2007 Auburn, Indiana
September 16

# Garrett man served God, country, family with smiles and laughter

BY VIV ROSSWURM
vivianr@kpcnews.net

GARRETT — Delmer Smith was a man who loved to laugh and make others laugh.

He also loved his family, working for the railroad, living in Garrett, going to church, a dog named Daisy Mae, and the sugar-free key lime and raspberry pies homemade especially for him by his daughter-in-law.

Forever the clown who liked to make others laugh, he will be remembered as a man who could perfectly imitate a dog bark and the voice of Donald Duck, who performed amusing tricks while roller skating and who liked to splash everyone while doing cannonballs and playing with the kids — like a kid — at the Garrett Community Pool.

Delmer Smith was 86 when he died Tuesday, Aug. 21, 2007.

Born in Garrett on Nov. 28, 1920, to Carl A. and Dora E. (Barrone) Smith, Delmer lived his entire life in Garrett, except when he served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He and his future wife, Betty Miller, knew each other as students at Garrett High School and together, after the war, they naturally chose Garrett to settle down and raise their family.

Delmer served with the Seabees as a water tender second class, receiving special training in deep-sea diving. He was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation while attached to the 1st Division Marines of Okinawa and he was extremely proud of his —and his comrades' — service to their country.

Del Marie Burchardt of Oregon — named after her father, who thought he and Betty were having a boy — remembers her dad's dedication and support of the U.S. military.

"'Do not ever forget the ones who served in wars before and after me, the many who lost their lives,' he used to say to me," Burchardt said. "It affected him and many others in ways we will never know. He said to never stop praying for them; they need our support and prayers even if some of us disagree with the wars."

Delmer was proud that three of his grandsons were in the military and served in Desert Storm and the war in Iraq, Burchardt said.

Returning home to Garrett after World War II, Delmer took a job with the B&O Railroad, where he would remain for 44 years, serving as an engineer and fireman. He immersed himself in family, church and community activities at the Garrett Presbyterian Church, the American Legion and Lakewood Park Church. He also volunteered countless hours at the Garrett Recycling Center, Meals on Wheels and Community Cares.

Garrett rewarded Delmer by naming him its Citizen of the Year in 2001.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Delmer Smith was known for his laughter, his love of family and country and his expertise as a railroad engineer. A World War II U.S. Navy veteran, he received the Presidential Unit Citation while attached to the 1st Division Marines of Okinawa.**

A friend and co-worker on the railroad, Herman Jensen of Garrett, remembers that Delmer was a good engineer — "a good man to work with." The two worked together for 41 years, and Jensen said Delmer's reputation as "being knowledgeable and good at what he did" earned a lot of respect from others on the railroad.

Growing up with their father, what his children remember most are the good times and the laughter.

"My dad was a wise man, a good teacher," said daughter Brenda Viers of South Carolina. "Although he was hard-working, he always had time for us, even to share his days off with us. He took us to Pretty Lake for swimming and picnics, to Wall Lake to visit our grandparents, swimming at the Garrett pool and to Pokagon State Park for tobogganing. What a blast we had!"

"He would even take the other kids in the neighborhood who otherwise would not have been able to go," said daughter Debbie Smith of Garrett. "The more the merrier was his way of thinking. It was before seat-belt laws, and dad would just pack us in the car like sardines."

Even in high school, Betty Smith remembers her husband making people laugh.

"He was on the football and basketball teams, and once he and another guy put on a silly wrestling match which made everyone laugh," she said.

Delmer graduated from Garrett High School in 1940 and was on the winning basketball team that advanced to the super regional (now called semistate). His photo is in the Garrett High School Hall of Fame, next to Sarah Bigelow Creager, Delmer's granddaughter, who was a pitcher for the GHS softball team in 1992.

Delmer and Betty Smith celebrated their 67th anniversary on June 16 with their children, Myron, Timothy, David, Brenda, Debbie and Del Marie, as well as 16 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren and one great-great granddaughter.

Delmer's sister, Cleo Talley, also lives in Garrett and remembers growing up with her brother and four other siblings.

"He and another brother would go out and find snakes and toads and bring them back to the house and scare mom and me to death with them," Cleo remembers with a laugh. "They wouldn't stop until we locked ourselves in the bedroom."

Del Marie remembers that her father often took his kids shopping, and they didn't always like the results.

"He always seemed to buy us sturdy, durable shoes, which I hated because I thought kids would make fun of them, especially boys," Del Marie said. "But dad always said, 'You will have good shoes and regular six-month dental exams.'"

Worshiping God was a high priority for Delmer, instilled in him as a young boy. Betty Smith remembers when Delmer received an award in high school after attending Sunday school for 14 consecutive years without missing a single session.

Delmer helped his wife around the house — vacuuming, doing the dishes, picking up after the kids — even though he took a ribbing for it at work. Once, when his co-workers were giving him an especially hard time about doing "lady's work," Delmer replied curtly that he didn't ask for or want their opinion.

"He especially loved kids and always wanted to help people," Betty Smith said.

"Dad always helped my mother with housework, and when he was out on the railroad he always told us to help her out," remembers Burchardt. "I think dad did everything except the laundry."

That training may have begun in Delmer's childhood, when sister Cleo would find Delmer's clothing carelessly flung on the floor. "I would take it and throw it on the front porch and tell him to go get it and put it away properly," Cleo Talley said.

"He always told mom what a good meal she had prepared for us, always complimented her in every way a husband should," Burchardt said.

"We should all learn from that."

## Esther Brandon

MONTPELIER, OHIO — Esther J. Brandon, 90, of rural Montpelier, Ohio, died Friday, Sept. 14, 2007, in Harborside Healthcare of Nothwest Ohio, Bryan, Ohio, following an extended illness.

She was a homemaker and a member of the Madison Church of God near Pioneer, Ohio.

On Feb. 9, 1917, in Defiance County, Ohio, she was born to Audrey Moon and Arthur Stantz. She married Eldon R. Brandon on Sept. 28, 1939. He preceded her in death on March 11, 2002.

Surviving are a son, Van A. Brandon, Montpelier, Ohio; a daughter and son-in-law, Iva L. and Carl Mettler, Auburn.; four grandchildren, Roxanna Harden, Michigan, Jeanette and her husband Rick Conn, Garrett, Thomas and his wife Lisa Mettler, Auburn, and Loretta and her husband Ron Walters, Waterloo; 12 great-grandchildren; five great-great-grandchildren; and a sister, Annetta E. Hancock, Bryan, Ohio.

In addition to her husband and parents, a brother, Arthur Stantz, preceded her in death.

Graveside services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Floral Grove Cemetery, Pioneer, Ohio, with Pastor Michael Wilder officiating.

There is no calling.

Memorials are to Geesey Funeral Home, Montpelier, for the Madison Church of God or the activity fund for Harborside Healthcare.

## Richard Robinson

GENEVA, Ill. — Richard P. Robinson, 80, of Geneva, Ill., and Fountain Hills, Ariz., died Saturday, Aug. 25, 2007, at Kindred Hospital in Sycamore, Ill.

Mr. Robinson spent his formative years growing up in Auburn and graduated from Auburn High School. After serving in the Naval Reserves, he went on to graduate from the University of Notre Dame and Indiana University, where he received his law degree. After receiving his law degree, he received a teaching fellowship at New York University, where he met his wife of 54 years, Elizabeth. She preceded him in death in 2005.

Mr. Robinson was an attorney for Sears for 35 years, retiring in 1986. He was an avid sports fan, especially of the Indiana Hoosiers.

He was born Nov. 6, 1926, in Detroit to Richard H. and Nellie V. (Carper) Robinson. They preceded him in death.

Surviving are four children, Kathryn A. Berryhill of Houston, Texas, Sue Ellen Robinson, Thomas A. Robinson and Philip S. Robinson, all of Geneva, Ill.; five grandchildren, Laura, Rachael, Timothy, Julia and Michael; and a sister, Virginia Robinson of Indiana.

Services have taken place in Geneva. Burial was in River Hills Cemetery at Batavia, Ill.

Memorials are to the Coalition of Pulmonary Fibrosis in care of PNC Bank, P.O. Box 31001-0943, Pasadena, CA 91110-0943.

## Tyler King

AUBURN — Tyler J. King, 17, of Auburn died Sunday, Sept. 16, 2007, in Auburn

Born in Jackson, Mich., he was a student at DeKalb High School. He loved hunting and fishing.

Tyler King

Surviving are his father, Jeffrey L. King of Michigan; his mother, Rena King of Auburn; a maternal grandmother, Millie Trousdale of Jackson, Mich.; his great-grandmother, Edith Fowler of Jackson, Mich.; many aunts and uncles and his cousins.

Services will be Wednesday at 4 p.m. at McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. The Rev. Al Black will officiate.

Calling will be Wednesday from 1-4 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family for funeral expenses.

## Mary Campbell

BUTLER — Mary L. Campbell, 86, died Sunday evening, Sept. 16, 2007, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Campbell retired from Edgerton Metals in 1983 after 27 years of service.

She was born Aug. 19, 1921, in Fremont to Ira and Mabel (Eddinger) Bartlow. They preceded her in death.

Surviving are two daughters and a son-in-law, Ruth and David Stensland of Monroeville and Joyce Perry of Edgerton, Ohio; two brothers, Ira Bartlow Jr. of Florida and William Bartlow of Indiana; five grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and seven great-great-grandchildren.

There will be no calling or services.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Heart Association.

H.E. Johnson & Son Funeral Home of Butler is handling arrangements.

## Dominic Rowe

GARRETT — Dominic Matthew Beau Rowe, an infant, died Friday, Sept. 14, 2007, at Dupont Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Survivors include his parents, Sandra and Beau Rowe of Garrett; three sisters, Casondra, Adria and Eanna Rowe, all at home; maternal grandparents, Jackie and Michael Schultiz of Garrett and John and Betty Jefferies of Fremont, Ohio; and paternal grandparents, Steph Rowe and Todd Clady of Garrett and Rudy Rowe of Garrett.

Services will be Thursday at 4 p.m. at McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn.

Calling will be Thursday from 3-4 p.m. at the funeral home.

## Mike Stephenson

CINCINNATI — Mike Stephenson, 49, of Cincinnati, Ohio, and formerly of DeKalb County died Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2007, in Tavernier, Fla.

Mr. Stephenson

He had been employed at Huhtamaki in Ohio.

Mr. Stephenson grew up in Key Biscayne, Fla., and was a graduate of Coral Gables High School in Miami, Fla.

He enjoyed a variety of activities including deep sea fishing, weightlifting and golf.

He will be remembered as a loving husband, father, son, brother and uncle.

He was born in Key West, Fla., on Jan. 20, 1958, to Jack and Bea Stephenson. His mother, Bea Stephenson, survives in Tavernier, Fla., and his father and stepmother, Jack and Linda Stephenson, survive in Jacksonville, Fla.

Also surviving are his wife, Jen Stephenson of Cincinnati; his stepchildren, Amber and Frankie of Cincinnati; a daughter, Siobhan Stephenson of Cincinnati and her mother, Katy Kilgore of Garrett; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Michellle Stephenson-Bock of Naples, Fla., and Renee and Mike Gillespie of Auburn; and nieces and nephews, Shasta and Nick Kuhlhorst of Auburn, Mike Stephenson Clifton of Spencerville and Hailey and Justice Bock of Naples.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents and two nephews, Chuck and Ben Clifton.

A memorial and celebration of life service will be held at a later date in the Florida Keys.

Condolences may be sent in care of his sister, Renee Gillespie.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** is *being reprinted to correct an error in information submitted to the newspaper.*

## Martha Wiler

AUBURN — Martha J. Wiler, 77, of Auburn died Thursday, Sept. 13, 2007, at her home.

Mrs. Wiler worked as an inspector at Cooper Tire & Rubber Co. in Auburn for 36 years, retiring in 1992. She attended the former Missionary Church in Auburn. She loved to bowl.

She was born Feb. 22, 1930, in Marshall County to Kenneth M. and Ruby B. (Kanarr) VanGilder.

She married M. Lyle Wiler on Nov. 21, 1953, in Angola. He survives.

Also surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Tina M. and Michael Metzger of Auburn; a sister and brother-in-law, Rosemary and Robert Neff of Columbus; three grandchildren, Tyler Tharpe, Kelly Rowe, and Greg Metzger; and five great-grandchildren, Kyle Rowe, Taylor Rowe, Emily Rowe, Jake Tharpe and Becca Metzger.

She was preceded in death by her parents; one brother, Junior VanGilder; and one sister, Wilma Shorts.

Services will be today at 2 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be today from 1-2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society.

The EVENING STAR
2007 Auburn, Indiana
September 19

# Local philanthropist, businessman Bernard Brennan of Garrett dies at 96

GARRETT — Bernard R. Brennan, 96, died Monday, Sept. 17, 2007, at 9 p.m. at Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla.

Mr. Brennan was the owner of Insurance Trustees Inc. from 1951-2002. He began his insurance career in 1937 as an associate of L. Dale Green, then owner of Insurance Trustees. His career was interrupted by four years of service in the U.S. Army in from 1942-1946 during World War II.

He served with the 70th Infantry division and took part in two campaigns, spending two years in Germany and France. He achieved the rank of captain and was awarded the Combat Medal badge, the Bronze Star medal, the American Theater ribbon, the European Theater ribbon and the Victory ribbon.

He was a member of the Garrett posts of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion, Elks, Eagles, Knights of Columbus, the Garrett Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club and was past president of the DeKalb County Welfare Board. He served on the Morrill Foundation board and was third regional district director of the Independent Insurance Agents of Indiana. He also served as the post commander for the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Mr. Brennan

Mr. Brennan was a philanthropist, having made major donations to the Garrett Community Center, St. Joseph Catholic Church and St. Joseph Catholic School. He was an avid bowler and enjoyed playing golf.

Born July 27, 1911, in Garrett, he was the son of Peter and Agnes (Lauby) Brennan of Garrett and lived in Garrett all of his life. He was a graduate of St. Joseph Catholic School and of Garrett High School with the class of 1929.

He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in economics from DePauw University in Greencastle and was a Rector Honor Scholar and a member of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity. He received his Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter designation in 1958.

In April 1962 he married Lucy Wise Cozier. She survives.

Also surviving are a stepdaughter, Jean Cozier of Chicago; a sister, Jeanne Meier of Winona, Minn.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by three sisters, Margaret Luttman, Gertrude Dalton and Mary Higgins; and a brother, John Brennan.

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. in St. Joseph Catholic Church in Garrett. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery with military graveside services conducted by the Garrett American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Calling will be Thursday from 4-6 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, with a rosary service at 6 p.m.

Memorials are to St. Joseph Catholic School in Garrett.

To sign an online guestbook or send a condolence, visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

## Betty Elliott

ANGOLA — Betty June Elliott, 81, of Angola died Tuesday, Sept. 18, 2007, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn, surrounded by her famliy.

Mrs. Elliott worked at Fashion Bug, Throop's Florist and Roger's Drug Store, all in Angola.

She was a member of Grace Baptist Church in Angola, and loved sewing, gardening and baking.

She was born May 10, 1926, in Kendallville to Alvin and Bessie (McCormick) Varner. Both preceded her in death. She married John Elliott on May 14, 1944. He died April 9, 1975.

She is survived by one son and daughter in law, John Jr. and Betty Elliott of New Albany, Ohio; a daughter and son-in-law, Sharon and Alvin Colby of Auburn; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by two brothers, Dick and Bill Varner; and a sister, Della Randol.

Services will be Friday at 2 p.m. at Grace Baptist Church, with the Rev. Bob Koenig officiating. A private family graveside service will be held at Circle Hill Cemetery in Angola.

Calling will be two hours before the service at the church.

Memorials are to Grace Baptist Church.

Arrangements are by the Weicht Funeral Home in Angola.

## Rachel Cutler

ALTONA — Rachel N. Cutler, 82, of Altona died Monday, Sept. 17, 2007, at Miller's Merry Manor Nursing Home in Garrett.

Mrs. Cutler

Mrs. Cutler was a playground monitor for 12 years at J.E. Ober Elementary School, where she loved interacting with the children.

She attended the Garrett United Methodist Church. She enjoyed making ceramics, growing her own flowers and bowling in the Tuesday Night Ladies League in Garrett, where she once was named "Bowler of the Year."

She graduated from Wolcottville High School.

She was born Oct. 28, 1924, in Bath, Mich., to Ronald and Lena (Domer) Sweet. They preceded her in death.

She married Kenny E. Cutler Sr. on Aug. 18, 1945, in Wolcottville, and he survives. The couple had lived in Altona for the past 54 years.

Also surviving are two sons, Kenny Cutler Jr. of Altona and Ronald Cutler of Louisville, Ky.; two daughters, Pamela Tackett and Norma Thomson, both of Garrett; 13 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren; a brother, Larry Sweet of Wolcottville; and three sisters, Wilma Chiddister of PawPaw, Mich., Dorothy Walters of Rome City and Darlene McKown of Wolcottville.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Lee Sweet, and a sister, Donna McKee.

Services will be Thursday at 11 a.m. in Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, with Dr. Scott Shoaff officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery of rural Garrett.

Calling will be today from 4-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Garrett United Methodist Church.

To sign an online guestbook or send a condolence, visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** *is being reprinted to change the location of the services.*

## Vonda Collins

STROH — Vonda Collins, 61, of Stroh died Monday, Sept. 17, 2007, at her home near Stroh with her family by her side.

Mrs. Collins

Mrs. Collins had lived in Indiana for 44 years.

She loved her family and cherished her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She loved her Mt. Calvary United Baptist Church family and worshipping God.

Mrs. Collins enjoyed planting and tending to her flower gardens and sewing.

She was born in McKee, Ky., on Dec. 27, 1945, to Toney and Ethel Mae (Gibson) McKinney. She married her childhood sweetheart, Willie Collins, on June 1, 1963, at Rock Fork Creek, near Garrett, Ky.

Surviving are her husband, the Rev. Willie Collins of Stroh; seven daughters and five sons-in-law, Teresa Collins and her companion, Randy Sliger, and Bridget and Brent Sage, all of Kendallville, Ronda and Bill Adamo of Garrett, Sandra and Dominick Green, Brittney and Richard Smith and Brooke Collins, all of Stroh, and Deborah and Gary Green of Hudson; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Judy and James Collins and Janet Arnold, all of Kendallville; a brother and sister-in-law, Jimmy and Vickie Scott of Kendallville; 11 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a grandson, Willie Dewayne Halsey in 1988; and three infant brothers.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Community Baptist Church, C.R. 700S, west of South Milford, with the Rev. John White, the Rev. Lee Combs, and the Rev. Bethel Bolen officiating. Burial will be in Woodruff Cemetery in Wolcottville. Pallbearers will be James Collins, Ted Slone, Earl Handshoe, Damon Handshoe, Jim Tuttle, Oberine Gibson and Oscar Handshoe. Honorary pallbearers will be Claude Manns, Mark Gayheart, Denzil Hyler, Bill Wicker and the Rev. Birtchell Mosley Jr.

Calling will be all day today at the church with a service at 6 p.m.

Memorials are to the Collins family in care of Hite Funeral Home, 403 S. Main St., Kendallville.

Condolences may be sent to www.hitefuneralhome.com.

## John Tuttle

AUBURN — John Freeman Tuttle, 80, of Auburn, died Tuesday, Sept. 18, 2007, at his home.

Mr. Tuttle

Mr. Tuttle retired from Auburn Foundry and, until last year, worked at the Auburn Water Pollution Control Plant.

He was a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Auburn, where he enjoyed ushering almost every Sunday. He enjoyed Indiana University basketball, Purdue University baseball and oil paintring. He was especially proud of his grandchildren, and his family and friends meant the world to him.

He enjoyed spending time with his canine companion of many years, Midge.

He graduated in 1945 from Metz High School, where he played basketball and baseball.

He was born July 13, 1927, to Freeman and Clara (Fry) Tuttle at the family home in Metz.

He married Ruby (Collins) Easterday at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in 1976. She survivies.

Also surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Debra and Mike Klink of Auburn; four grandchildren, Kristen Klink of Waterloo, Kendra Klink of Auburn, Jessica Klink of Chicago and Simon Klink of Auburn; two stepsons and their spouses, Michael and Glenda Easterday of Delores, Colo., and Roger and Melissa Easterday of Pandora, Ohio; nine stepgrandchildren and their spouses, Chad and Sonna Easterday of Florida, Robin and Denise Easterday of Iraq, Calvin and Katie Easterday of Texas, Trent Easterday of Ohio, Brea and Tony Wilson of Fort Wayne, Jacob and Joshua Wauters of Ohio and Alexis and Ashley Easterday of Florida; eight stepgreat-grandchildren; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Kenneth and Arlene Tuttle of Pleasant Lake and Willis and Cora Tuttle of Auburn; a sister and brother-in-law, Judy and Floyd Stutzman of Ashley; and a sister-in-law, Geraldine (Mrs. Richard) Tuttle of Elkhart.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one grandson, Zachary Klink; two brothers and one sister.

Services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. The Rev. Stephen Kummernuss, Paster Richard Kraus and Mike Zion will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Calling will be Friday from noon to 9 p.m. at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, and Saturday from 10-11 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Auburn Presbyterian Church and DeKalb Memorial Hospice.

## Graydon Fox

WATERLOO — Graydon Y. Fox, 100, of Waterloo and formerly of Auburn, died Tuesday, Sept. 18, 2007, at the home of his daughter and son-in-law, where he had lived for the past six years.

Mr. Fox worked at Warner Gear in Auburn for 27 years, retiring Jan. 1, 1966. He was a member of Auburn First United Methodist Church, the Masonic Lodge and Scottish Rite.

He was born Feb. 18, 1907, in Branch County, Mich., to J.P. and Hattie Estel (Lyons) Fox.

He married Velma A. Likens in Hillsdale, Mich., on Aug. 2, 1925. She died July 12, 1987.

Surviving are by a daughter and son-in-law, Marsha and Jack Cook of Waterloo; 13 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; three sons, Elmer J. Fox, Graydon Fox Jr. and Steven Fox; a daughter, Barbara Groscop; and a sister, Dawn Wendling.

There will be no services or calling. Private family burial will be in Michigan.

Memorials are to DeKalb Memorial Hospice.

## Roberta Whittig

ASHLEY — Roberta E. Whittig, 85, of Ashley died Sept. 18, 2007, at her home.

She had retired from Creek Chub Bait Store in Ashley, and also worked at The Bottle Shop in Ashley.

She was a member of the Ashley Church of God.

She was born in Hamilton on Aug. 5, 1922, to Russell and Kathryn (Bartles) Wiler, who both preceded her in death. She married Robert Whittig on Oct. 25, 1949. He died in 1985.

She is survived by a daughter, Cindy Roach of Colorado Springs, Colo.; two granddaughters, Shelley Stiles of Bremerton, Wash.; and Lindsay Roach of Lewisburg, W.Va.; a great-grandson, Adam Hunter Stiles; and two sisters, Marcia Forbes of Pleasant Lake and Brenda Norris of Auburn.

Graveside services will be Saturday at 1 p.m. at Circle Cemetery in Hudson, with the Rev. Robert Neace officiating.

Memorials are to the Ashley Church of God or the Susan B. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

Johnson Funeral Home in Hudson is in charge of arrangements.

## Linda Woodward

GARRETT — Linda I. Woodward, 71, of Garrett died Wednesday, Sept. 19, 2007, at Miller's Merry Manor nursing home in Garrett.

Mrs. Woodward was a housekeeper at Miller's Merry Manor for three years, retiring in 1993. She was a member of the Garrett Nazarene Church. She was born in Syracuse.

Surviving are four sons and two daughters-in-law, Robert Woodward of Garrett, John Woodward of Garrett, Joe and Ann Woodward of Garrett and Michael and Valerie Woodward of Ashley; and three daughters and two sons-in-law, Eva Martin of Garrett, Joyce Ann and Robert Bishop and Nila and Tom Talbot of Garrett.

Her husband, Robert Woodward Sr., died March 8, 2005. She also was preceded in death by a son, Kenneth Woodward, in 1954; a sister and six brothers.

Services will be Saturday at 2 p.m. in McComb, Dilgard and Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. The Rev. Jeff Slater will officiate. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery of Garrett.

Calling will be Friday from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. and Saturday from 1-2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Garrett Nazarene Church.

## James Clemans

KENDALLVILLE — James "J.J." Clemans, 68, of Kendallville died Wednesday, Sept. 19, 2007, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Clemans was a retired farmer.

Mr. Clemans

He was a member of Wayne Center United Methodist Church in Kendallville and the Draft Horse Association.

Mr. Clemans was born in Kendallville on Sept. 16, 1939, to James W. and Dorothy J. (Muesing) Clemans. They preceded him in death.

Surviving are a sister and brother-in-law, Carol and David Swogger of Corunna; a nephew and his wife, Dan and Sharmin Swogger of Wolcottville; a niece and her husband, Denise and Larry "Chip" Hooks of Corunna; and many cousins including Blake Swogger, Landon Swogger and Christopher Boles, all of Wolcottville, and Alexis Hooks and Grace Hooks, both of Corunna.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at Hite Funeral Home with Pastor John S. Maxson officiating. Burial will be in Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville. Pallbearers will be David Swogger, Dan Swogger, Larry Hooks, Christopher Boles, Blake Swogger and John Clifton.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials may be made to Draft Horse Association or to Wayne Center United Methodist Church.

Condolences may be sent online www.hitefuneral-home.com

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** is *being reprinted to include additional information about family members.*

## Linda Woodward

GARRETT — Linda I. Woodward, 71, of Garrett died Wednesday, Sept. 19, 2007, at Miller's Merry Manor nursing home in Garrett.

Mrs. Woodward was a housekeeper at Miller's Merry Manor for three years, retiring in 1993. She was a member of the Garrett Nazarene Church. She was born in Syracuse.

Surviving are three sons and a daughter-in-law, John Woodward of Garrett, Joe and Ann Woodward of Garrett and David Wolfinger of Indiana; two stepsons, Robert Woodward of Garrett and Michael Woodward and his wife, Valerie, of Ashley; three daughters and two sons-in-law, Eva Martin of Garrett, Joyce Ann and Robert Bishop of Auburn and Nila and Tom Talbot of Garrett; three sisters, Ruth of Elkhart, Mary of Middlebury and Carol of Syracuse; 13 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

Her husband, Robert Woodward Sr., died March 8, 2005. She also was preceded in death by two sisters and six brothers.

Services will be today at 2 p.m. in McComb, Dilgard and Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. The Rev. Patrick Hess will officiate. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery of Garrett.

Calling will be today from 1-2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Garrett Nazarene Church.

## Florence Husted

ANGOLA — Florence R. Husted, 96, of Angola died Thursday, Sept. 20, 2007.

Mrs. Husted taught home economics for 30 years in Stryker and Fairview school districts in Ohio.

A graduate of Purdue University, she was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Purdue Alumni Association.

She was born March 18, 1911, in Waterloo to Henry and Addie (Jackman) Renner. She married Claude Husted on Sept. 5, 1933. He died April 17, 2005.

Surviving are one son and daughter-in-law, Walter Wesley and JoAnn Husted of Mount Vernon, Ohio; one daughter and son-in-law, Claudette and Frank Herbert of Houston, Texas; one sister, Sarah Renner Hughes of Dallas, Texas; three grandchildren, Robert, John and Vincent; three stepgrandaughters, Lori, Jennifer and Pam; seven great-grandchildren, Joseph, Jaren, Vincent, Trenton, Daniel, Katie and Catherine; and two step-grandchildren, Kayla and Kyle.

She was also preceded in death by her parents; three sisters, Gertrude Renner Shearer, Alice Latier and Helen Renner Hughes; and two brothers, Howard Renner and Walter Renner.

Services will be at a later date.

Memorials are to the Hamilton Volunteer Fire Department.

Arrangements are by Weicht Funeral Home, Angola.

## Lorraine Peninger

EVANSVILLE — Lorraine (Lakey) Peninger, 80, formerly of Albion, died Thursday, Sept. 20, 2007, at VNA Charlier Hospice Center, Evansville.

Mrs. Peninger had retired from Dana Corp. after 15 years as a payroll clerk.

She was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, Prentice Chapter in Albion, a 16-year member of First Baptist Church in Evansville, and a 25-year member of Asbury United Methodist Church in Albion.

She was born May 31, 1927, in Cortland, Ohio, to John E. and Bessie M. (Buckeloo) Lakey. She married John C. Peninger Jr. He died in 1988.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Gail Elane and Kerry Scheurich of Avilla; a son and daughter-in-law, John and Karen Sue Peninger of Newburgh; a sister, Delores Steinbacher of Garrett; six grandchildren and their spouses, Jason Scheurich, John Scheurich, Leslie and Jeremy Neely, Kim Miller, Mathew and Katie Peninger, and Megan Peninger; and three great-grandchildren, Marisa, Kayla and Olivia Neely.

She was also preceded in death by her parents, five brothers and a sister.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday at D.O. McComb & Sons Covington Knolls Funeral Home, 8325 Covington Road, Fort Wayne. Burial will be at Covington Memorial Gardens in Fort Wayne.

Calling will be from 4 to 7 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to First Baptist Church, 320 Cherry St., Evansville, IN 47713.

The EVENING STAR
2007 Auburn, Indiana
September 23

# Ed Clifton was known for humor

BY AMY OBERLIN
amyo@kpcnews.net

PLEASANT LAKE — Ed Clifton knew how to have fun.

Born Floyd Edward Clifton to Harry and Jennie Culbertson Clifton on May 16, 1929, he and his six brothers grew up on a farm near Wren, Ohio. They walked to school every day while his father worked in a coal, hay, straw and fertilizer business and farmed his 500 acres. They lived in a home built by the family in 1913, and all the boys graduated from Wren High School — Ed in 1948.

He eventually moved to Fort Wayne, and then to Pleasant Lake where he started a construction company, but always kept in contact with his brothers. He went on a train trip in 2000 to California and back with them, and had a wonderful time, said his brother, Duane Clifton of Wren.

"Get those four together and they were worse than kids," said Ed's son, Herbert, of Angola, during a memorial dinner Friday at the Steuben Township Volunteer Fire Department building.

"We had a lot of fun," said Duane.

Ed was known for his humor and antics. Even in his later years, he would stand on his head for his grandchildren, just to prove that he could. Then, he'd try to get them to do tricks, too, said his daughter, Michelle Clifton of Fort Wayne.

"He loved having his grandchildren around," said his daughter-in-law Bonnie. He also loved his cats, added Herb.

His children remember fun times with a father who cooked up adventures on the spur of the moment, taking off to Houghton Lake to snowmobile in the winter or to Crooked Lake for water skiing in the summer.

"We had a blast," said his stepdaughter, Karen Sue Westrick of Cromwell. "He was always a comedian."

Michelle said she learned to ski at the age of 4. She has many early childhood memories of days at the lake with her family and her uncle Roy's family.

Stepdaughter Cindy Bryan of Grand Rapids, Mich., said all Ed's children were included in his various sporting pursuits, and all children were treated equally.

"We used to take a lot of canoe trips," said Ed's son, Gregg Clifton — who came to graveside services Friday in Pleasant Lake from his home in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Ed was the one who would tip a canoe on purpose, Gregg said, or at least "make sure everybody gets wet with the paddle."

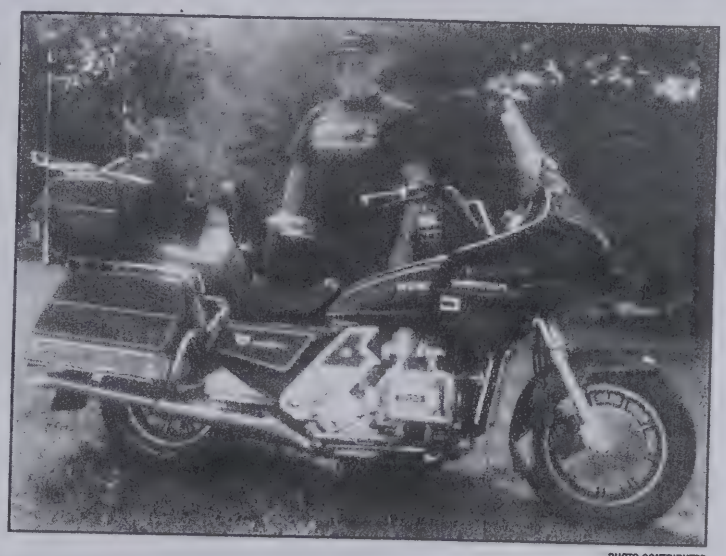


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Floyd "Ed" Clifton of Pleasant Lake stands beside his Goldwing before taking off on one of his adventures.**

Ed's children all remember going out on snowmobile trails to "get lost," and it was a good time finding their way back again.

A member of the Gold Wing Riders Association, Chapter U, of Angola, and ABATE, Ed enjoyed taking motorcycle trips. As was his way, sometimes he would just take off on a whirlwind trip. Michelle guessed he'd probably seen all of the United States, and particularly liked the southwestern states.

"He had friends, family all along the way, he liked to stop and see," said Michelle.

Gregg remembers his dad "popping up" from time to time when he lived in New Orleans.

"That was always a good surprise," Gregg said.

Ed ran Clifton Construction from 1958 to 2000.

"He taught himself to be a carpenter," said Duane. He said his brother was excellent at carpentry and was also very intelligent.

"He was an avid football fan," Duane remembered, adding that baseball also was a love of Ed's.

He was a member of Angola's Moose Lodge, Angola Odd Fellows Lodge and the Pleasant Lake Lions Club. He was involved in the minstrel show the Lions Club put on every year, where club members would dress in outlandish costumes to put on a show for the community.

"We'd go watch the show," said Michelle.

Ed was the funny man, the ring leader for many amusing adventures.

"We're all going to miss him, but we'll all remember him, remember the good times," said Gregg, smiling.

Ed is survived by his sons, Gregg, Herb and John Clifton, also of Angola; a stepson, Ralph Johnson of Bryan, Ohio; Michelle; four stepdaughters, including Cindy, Sue, Diane Johnson of Flamingo, Fla. and Julie Morr of Pioneer, Ohio; his brother, Duane; 10 grandchildren; 13 stepgrandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

One of those grandchildren, Daniel McGuigan, took a leave from his duty in the war in Iraq to attend his grandfather's funeral service Friday.

## Audra Luke

KENDALLVILLE — Audra M. Luke, 98, of Kendallville died Saturday, Sept. 22, 2007, at Kendallville Manor Health Care Center.

Mrs. Luke loved to play bingo, square dance, work puzzles and play cards. She was a charter member of the Eagles Lodge in Kendallville and the Wayne Township Homemakers Club.

She was born Oct. 18, 1908, in Franklin Township of DeKalb County to Arthur Adelbert and Maude M. (Foutz) Gurtner.

She married Harold L. Luke on Feb. 4, 1925, in Hamilton. He died Feb. 9, 1985.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Robert and Catherine Luke of Fort Wayne, and George and Barbara Luke of Albuquerque, N.M.; a daughter and son-in-law, Marilyn and Martin Buckley of Quincy, Mich.; 16 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren and nine great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by two sons, Martin and H. Dean Luke, two brothers and three sisters.

Services will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. at Hite Funeral Home, 403 S. Main St., Kendallville, with Pastor Scott Pattison officiating. Burial will be at Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville.

Calling will be Monday from 3-7 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Kendallville Manor Activity Fund, American Heart Association or Parkview Noble Hospital.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Arrangements are by Hite Funeral Home, 403 S. Main St., Kendallville.

## Mildred Hughes

AUBURN — Mildred M. Hughes, 79, of Three Rivers, Mich., and formerly of Auburn, died Friday, Sept. 21, 2007, at Sturgis Hospital in Sturgis, Mich.

Mrs. Hughes was a homemaker.

She was born Aug. 24, 1928, in Paulding, Ohio, to Chas and Grace Jones.

Her husband, Thomas Hughes, preceded her in death.

Surviving are a son, Thomas Hughes of California; a daughter, Andrea Voorde of Three Rivers, Mich.; a brother, Paul Jones of Hicksville, Ohio; two grandchildren, Katherine Mathis of Three Rivers, Mich., and Jason Hankins of Seymour; and four great-grandchildren, Jasmine Mathis, Ricky Mathis, Caleb Hankins and Mia Hankins.

She was preceded in death by her parents and one brother.

Services will be Monday at 2 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Al Black officiating. Burial will be at Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Calling will be Monday from noon to 2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to a charity of the donor's choice.

## Joyce Westenhaver

GARRETT — Joyce M. Westenhaver, 84, of Garrett and formerly of Crooked Lake, Angola, died Monday, Sept. 17, 2007, at her home.

Mrs. Westenhaver was a homemaker. She was a member of the First Church of Christ in Garrett and a graduate of Garrett High School, class of 1942.

She was born Jan. 16, 1923, in Garrett to William R. and Hazel M. (Dingman) Clady.

She married Matthew E. Westenhaver on Aug. 24, 1946, in Garrett. He died Sept. 15, 1989.

Surviving are a son, William E. Westenhaver of Montreal, Quebec, Canada; nieces and nephews, Sandy and Tom Griffin, Carol and Bud Hathaway, Judy and Don Francis, and Jack Clady, all of Garrett; and several great nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband and parents; a sister, Audrey Gaff; and her half-brothers, Harold and William Clady.

Graveside services will be Monday at 3 p.m. in Christian Union Cemetery of Garrett.

There will be no calling.

Memorials are to the First Church of Christ, Garrett.

Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, is handling arrangements.

To sign an online register or send condolences, visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

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## Nancy Stuller

AUBURN — Nancy M. Stuller, 94, of Auburn died Friday, Sept. 21, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mrs. Stuller was a homemaker. She worked at DeKalb Memorial Hospital and also for Charleston Metal in Waterloo before retiring in 1975.

She was a member of the Waterloo United Methodist Church and also attended the Freewill Baptist Church of Waterloo. She was a member of the Pythian Sisters and the Progressive Literary Club.

She was born June 20, 1913, in Lima, Ohio, to Vinton O. and Blanche F. (Stultz) Drew.

She married Bernard Dale Stuller on Feb. 21, 1931, in Steuben County. He died April 19, 2000.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, B. Steven and Teresa Stuller of Bluffton; two daughters and three sons-in-law, Rebecca and Virgil Lanning of White City, Ore., Rosemary and David Briggs of Butler and Harlen Bolen of Waterloo; two sisters, Mavis Ritchie of Auburn and Katherine Cunningham of Butler; 33 grandchildren, 47 great grandchildren and 25 great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a son and daughter-in-law, William and Martha Stuller; a daughter, Julia Bolen; three brothers, Simon Drew, William Drew and Kenneth Drew; two brothers and a sister who died in infancy; two granddaughters, Bonnie and Patty Stuller; and four great-great grandchildren.

Services will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery.

Calling will be Monday from 4-8 p.m. and Tuesday from 10-11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to DeKalb Memorial Hospital Home Health and Hospice, 1316 E. Seventh St., Auburn.

## Dorothy Williams-West

ANGOLA — Dorothy Williams-West, 98, of Angola died Saturday, Sept. 22, 200,7 at Northern Lakes Healthcare and Rehab.

Mrs. Williams-West

Born in Butler, she was a homemaker and had been a member of Assembly of God Church since 1937.

Surviving are three sons, Maynard Williams of Homer, Mich., David Williams of Union City, Mich., and Larry Williams of Orland; two daughters, Annabelle Cole of Brighton and Joyce Hartman of Hudson; 22 grandchildren; and numerous great- and great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Lewis Williams, in 1985; a daughter, Lois Kreiser; and brother, Walter Krontz.

Services will be Wednesday 11 a.m. at McComb, Dilgard and Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. Burial in Rose Lawn Cemetery at Auburn.

Calling will be Tuesday from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. and Wednesday from 10-11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to New Life Tabernacle Church of Kendallville.

## Mary Jane Kruse

ANGOLA — Mary Jane Kruse, 62, died Sunday, Sept. 23, 2007, at Presbyterian Chapel of the Lakes in Angola.

Mrs. Kruse

She taught high school English for 33 years before retiring in 2000. She taught seven years at Fremont High School, then at Angola High School.

She earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Wittenberg University, then earned her master's degree from the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne.

She attended Peace Lutheran Church in Fremont and Presbyterian Chapel of the Lakes, Angola.

She enjoyed and was well known for her collection of butterfly pins.

She was born May 6, 1945, in Auburn to Ward and Olene (Smith) Kruse. They preceded her in death.

Surviving are a sister and brother-in-law, Kathleen and Robert Heimann of Feeding Hills, Mass., and a nephew, Karl Heimann of Ithaca, N.Y.

Services will be Thursday at 2 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterlo. The Rev. Thomas E. Smith will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery at Auburn.

Calling will be Thursday from noon to 2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Presbyterian Chapel of the Lakes, 300 W. Orland Road, Angola, IN 46703.

## Susan Kaster

PLYMOUTH — Susan Genelle Kaster of Plymouth, formerly of Auburn, died Saturday, Sept. 22, 2007.

Mrs. Kaster

Mrs. Kaster received her bachelor's and master's degrees in social work from Valparaiso University. She served the children of Portage Township Schools in Portage and the East Noble Schools in Kendallville. She was a counselor for RISE services in Angola and the Northeastern Center in Kendallville. Her devoted service to children also was expressed through Special Olympics, Royal Family Kids Camp and the School of Christian Missions.

She was the daughter of Harold and Leah Grier of Marion.

She attended Indiana University, where she met and married her husband of 43 years, the Rev. William R. Kaster, on Sept. 6, 1964. He survives.

Also surviving are their four children, Mary Kaster of Sebastopol, Calif., Michael Kaster and his wife, Daniell Kaster, of Indianapolis, Peter Kaster of Plymouth, and Rebecca Kaster of Michigan City and her two children, Gavin and Eric.

A service of Christian resurrection and celebration of will be Sunday at 4 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 425 S. Michigan St., Plymouth.

A time of fellowship will follow for family and friends.

Memorial donations are to Trinity United Methodist Church for the Royal Family Kids Camp.

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2007
September 24

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** is *being reprinted to include a photograph. We apologize for omitting the photograph in Sunday's edition.*

## Nancy Stuller

AUBURN — Nancy M. Stuller, 94, of Auburn died Friday, Sept. 21, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

**Mrs. Stuller**

Mrs. Stuller was a homemaker. She worked at DeKalb Memorial Hospital and also for Charleston Metal in Waterloo before retiring in 1975.

She was a member of the Waterloo United Methodist Church and also attended the Freewill Baptist Church of Waterloo. She was a member of the Pythian Sisters and the Progressive Literary Club.

She was born June 20, 1913, in Lima, Ohio, to Vinton O. and Blanche F. (Stultz) Drew.

She married Bernard Dale Stuller on Feb. 21, 1931, in Steuben County. He died April 19, 2000.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, B. Steven and Teresa Stuller of Bluffton; two daughters and three sons-in-law, Rebecca and Virgil Lanning of White City, Ore., Rosemary and David Briggs of Butler and Harlen Bolen of Waterloo; two sisters, Mavis Ritchie of Auburn and Katherine Cunningham of Butler; 33 grandchildren; 47 great grandchildren; and 25 great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a son and daughter-in-law, William and Martha Stuller; a daughter, Julia Bolen; three brothers, Simon Drew, William Drew and Kenneth Drew; two brothers and a sister who died in infancy; two granddaughters, Bonnie and Patty Stuller; and four great-great grandchildren.

Services will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery.

Calling will be today from 4-8 p.m. and Tuesday from 10-11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to DeKalb Memorial Hospital Home Health and Hospice, 1316 E. Seventh St., Auburn.

The EVENING STAR Auburn, Indiana
September 26 2007

## Larry Wolfe

HAMILTON — Larry J. "Wolfie" Wolfe, 46, of Hamilton died Monday, Sept. 24, 2007.

Born in Auburn, Mr. Wolfe was a truck driver with Evans Equipment and was a member of the Butler Eagles.

Mr. Wolfe

Surviving are his wife, Vickie Wolfe of Hamilton; two sons, James D. Wolfe of Garrett and Donald D. Petre of Metz; two daughters, Amy Myers and Jennifer Conley, both of Hamilton; a stepson, Kirk Davis of Goshen; five brothers and a sister-in-law, Jerry E. Wolfe of Wolcottville, James L. and Shelly Wolfe of Auburn, Wendell Wolfe of Auburn, Darrell Wolfe of Spencerville and Steve A. Wolfe of Waterloo; two sisters, Kathy Collins of Kentucky and Tammy Lee of Decatur; his mother, Ruth A. Tester of Waterloo; 10 grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

Services will be Saturday at 2 p.m. in McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, with Pastor Harold Gingerich officiating. Burial will be in Circle Cemetery at Hudson.

Calling will be Friday from 2-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. and Saturday from 1-2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society.

The EVENING STAR Auburn, Indiana
2007
September 27

## Helen Tooman

WABASH — Helen May Tooman, 90, of Wabash and formerly of Garrett died Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2007, at Wabash County Hospital.

Mrs. Tooman

Mrs. Tooman lived in DeKalb County her entire life before moving to Wabash in 2006.

She worked as a bookkeeper for the A&P Grocery Store for 27 years. She also was an aide at J.E. Ober Elementary School in Garrett.

Mrs. Tooman was a member of the Cedar Creek Church of the Brethren, the Order of the Eastern Star and was in the Canasta Card Club for more than 45 years.

She was born Oct. 25, 1916, in Garrett to Walter and Alta (Lung) Dowdend.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, John and Virginia Livergood of Wabash and Robert and Dorie Livergood of Idabel, Okla.; two daughters, Laura McDermott of Auburn and Eleanor Pyle of Monroe; a stepson and his wife, Charles and Barbara Tooman of Marquette, Mich.; a stepdaughter, Judy Beeber of Arlington Heights, Ill.; two sisters, Cathrine Hathaway of Auburn and Edna Dunkin of South Bend; 11 grandchildren; seven stepgrandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and 10 stepgreat-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her first husband, Robert Livergood; her second husband, George Grogg; her third husband, Earl Tooman; two sisters, June Sebert and Lorrine Hathaway; and a grandson.

Services will be Friday at 2 p.m. in Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett. Burial will be at a later date.

Calling will be Friday from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. in the funeral home.

Memorials are to Cedar Creek Church of the Brethren.

To send a condolence or sign an online guestbook, visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

## Jade Beitz

WATERLOO — Jade C. Beitz died Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2007, at Parkview Noble Hospital in Kendallville.

She was born Tuesday to Garrison and Jennifer (Lockridge) Beitz. They survive in Waterloo.

Also surviving are a brother, Noah Bowers; a sister, Brooke Bowers, both of Waterloo; her maternal grandparents, Perry and Victoria Chorpenning of Waterloo; paternal grandparents, Bill and Cindy Parker of Kendallville; maternal great-grandparents, Stanley and Mary Kowalski of Auburn; paternal great-grandparents, Bill and Mary Jane Blackford of Fort Wayne; and several aunts and uncles.

Private family services were held today at Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville.

Feller Funeral Home of Waterloo was in charge of arrangements.

## Bettie Buell

HAMILTON — Bettie Jane (Myers) Buell, 84, of rural Hamilton died Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2007, at 11:45 p.m. at Evergreen Manor Nursing Center in Montpelier, Ohio, where she was a resident.

Mrs. Buell was a homemaker and worked alongside her husband on the family farm during their married life.

She was born Jan. 22, 1923. in Garrett to Homer Alty and Erma Jewell (Ray) Myers.

She married Forrest F. Buell on July 30, 1943, in Garrett. He died March 5, 1998.

Surviving are two daughters and a son-in-law, Christine and Dannie Weinhold of Auburn and Catherine Gibson of Rocky Mount, N.C.; one son and daughter-in-law, Elson and Rhonda Buell of Edon, Ohio; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Joseph Ray Myers, and a sister, Ruby Jean Word.

Services will be Sunday at 2 p.m in Krill Funeral Home, Edon, Ohio, with Pastor Eric Dailey officiating. Interment will follow in Edon Cemetery, Edon, Ohio.

Calling will be Sunday from noon to 2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to a charity of the donor's choice.

Condolences may be sent and an online register may be signed at www.krillfuneralservice.com.

## Leona Stover

MILLEDGEVILLE, Ill. — Leona Stover, 98, of Milledgeville, Ill., died Friday, Sept. 21, 2007, at the Good Samaritan Nursing Home in Mount Carroll, Ill., where she was a resident.

She worked for Dr. Fitzgerald in Morrison, Ill., for several years and then owned and operated a restaurant in Chadwick, Ill., with her cousin, Esther Handel, for 12 years.

She married Howard Stover on Jan. 27, 1934, and the couple farmed in the Milledgeville area for 47 years, retiring in 1981.

She spent her early years in Carroll and Whiteside counties and attended Whiteside County Schools.

She was a longtime member of the Dutchtown Church of the Brethren and she enjoyed sewing, quilting and gardening.

She was born June 7, 1909, in rural Chadwick to Fred and Bertha (Hoffman) Schreiner.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Norma and Ken Workman of Auburn; a son, Dr. Arman Stover of Lanark, Ill., a brother and sister-in-law, Merlyn and Marion Schreiner of Chadwick; five grandchildren, Mark Workman of Auburn, Lisa Nickerson of Tucson, Ariz., Randall Stover of Lyndon, Ill., Rick Stover of Albany, Ill., and Rodney Stover of Fenton, Ill., nine great-grandchildren; and one stepgreat-grandson.

Services were conducted Monday at the Dutchtown Church of the Brethren with Pastor Rick Koch officiating.

Memorials are to Milledgeville Dutchtown Church of the Brethren.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** is *being reprinted to include information about a surviving relative.*

## Jay Rowlison

KENDALLVILLE — Paul James "Jay" Rowlison, 79, of Kendallville died Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2007, at 12:42 p.m. at Shepherd of the Hill nursing home in Kendallville.

Mr. Rowlison

He was a lifetime area resident.

Mr. Rowlison retired after 14 years with the city of Kendallville Street Department.

He had served in the U.S. Army from 1952-1954 during the Korean War.

Mr. Rowlison was a member of American Legion Post 86 in Kendallville and was a past member of its Executive Committee.

He was also a member of Francis Vinyard VFW Post 2749, 40&8, and Trinity Church United Methodist, all of Kendallville.

Mr. Rowlison enjoyed playing shuffleboard and walking. He was often found talking with the construction workers and watching the building progress of Cornerstone Plaza.

He was born May 28, 1928, in Stroh to Paul E. and Dora May (Pierson) Rowlison. He married Donnabelle Refner on Nov. 26, 1954, in Auburn. She survives in Kendallville.

Also surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Jill and Bruce Hamilton of Auburn; a son and daughter-in-law, Terry and Catherine Rowlison of Murfreesboro, Tenn.; four grandchildren, April Hoff, Lisa Hamilton, Staci Rowlison and Tyler Rowlison; and three sisters and two brothers-in-law, Cora and Willis Tuttle of Auburn, Catherine Kaufman of Angola and Joan and Richard Huling of Mishawaka.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Donald Rowlison; and five sisters, Geraldine Leonhardt, Pauline Rowlison, Donna Jean Rowlison, Nancy Kay Rowlison and Betty Arnold.

Services will be at 11 a.m. today at Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, 222 S. State St., with the Rev. G. Scott Pattison of Trinity Church United Methodist Church officiating. Burial will be in Lake View Cemetery. Graveside military services will be provided by the members of American Legion Post 86 and Francis Vinyard VFW Post 2749. Pallbearers will be Don Moore, Norbert Franks, Kevin Franks, Bob Dunafin, Brian Bailey, Gary Smith, Don Leighty and Don Moore Jr., all members of American Legion Post 86.

Memorials are to Trinity Church United Methodist, Parkview Noble Home Health and Hospice, or to Riley Children's Hospital.

View a video tribute by Friday or send condolences to the family at www.youngfamilyfuneralhome.com

## Robert Slone

ALBION — Robert James Slone, 46, of Wichita Falls, Texas, died Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2007, in a construction accident in Wichita Falls.

He was a roofer working for Armored Roofing.

The U.S. Navy veteran, who served as GSM-1 (E7), was a member of the Eagles Lodge. He enjoyed watching football, fishing and talking about his daughter. He was a loving and caring father and brother who will be missed by all who knew him.

He was born Jan. 5, 1961, to Marvin James and Alice Belle (Lietch) Slone in Kendallville.

Surviving are a daughter, Alejandria Slone of Dededo, Guam; three stepsons, Frankie Santos of Lansing, Mich., and Percy and Eric Santos of Guam; two brothers, Marvin Slone of Mabank, Texas, and Kevin Slone of Willard, Utah; five sisters and two brothers-in-law, Shauna and Todd Stringfellow of Jefferson, Tenn., Rhonda Mauer of Nashville, Tenn., Millissa Benson of Auburn; Julia and Jerry Stairhinre of Hicksville, Ohio, and Crystal Hill of Stryker, Ohio; 14 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Two brothers, Terry and Lonnie Herendeen, a sister, Pamela Herendeen, and his parents preceded him in death.

Graveside services will at 11 a.m. Monday at Sweet Cemetery, Albion, with the Rev. Dr. Dan Barker officiating.

Calling will be from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday at Brazzell Funeral Home, Albion Chapel.

Memorials in lieu of flowers are to a charity of the donor's choice.

The EVENING STAR Auburn, Indiana
2007
September 30

# Investment in man returned triplefold

## Bernard Brennan spent his life giving to the community he loved

BY VIV ROSSWURM
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AND SUE CARPENTER
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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Bernard "Pete" Brennan and his wife, Lucy, relax at home after returning from one of their passions – international travel. Mr. Brennan died Sept. 17. He was known by family and friends alike as a generous benefactor in Garrett.**

GARRETT — Bernard "Pete" Brennan started early in life as an accomplished leader and community caretaker.

In his senior yearbook — the 1929 Garrett Aeolian — Mr. Brennan is listed as a two-year class president, Demosthian vice president and participant in baseball, track, basketball, tennis, football and Glee Club.

Mr. Brennan died Sept. 17 at the age of 96.

He received the Rector Scholarship and attended DePauw University in Greencastle, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics, graduating in 1933.

"It was in the midst of the Great Depression, and no one had any money," his wife, Lucy Wise Cozier, remembers. "Pete worked two jobs to stay in college and joined the Phi Delta Theta fraternity when he was a sophomore."

Following graduation from DePauw, Mr. Brennan worked as an advertising manager for The Garrett Clipper. He began his insurance career in 1937 as an associate of L. Dale Green, then owner of Insurance Trustees, and received his Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter designation in 1958. He owned and operated Insurance Trustees Inc. from 1951 to 2002.

Karen Gentis Failor of Fort Wayne remembers when Mr. Brennan gave her a job at the agency after she graduated from high school.

"He rescued me from a waitress job I hated," said Failor, who is now a self-employed Web designer.

"He taught me a lot — office skills, multi-tasking, and more — that I continued to use today."

Mr. Brennan took a break from his business and joined the Army in 1942 during World War II.

"Pete entered the Army as a private and quickly decided that was not the way to go," Lucy said. "He applied for Officer Candidate School and became a second lieutenant in the medical service.

He was with the 70th Infantry Division and left Boston for Marseille, France, in December 1944. He came out as a captain."

Mr. Brennan took part in two campaigns, spending two years in Germany and France.

He was awarded the Combat Medal badge, Bronze Star medal, American Theater ribbon, European Theater ribbon and the Victory ribbon as well as achieving the rank of captain.

He was 50 when he met Lucy after the death of her first husband and they rekindled their old friendship — both were born in Garrett and had dated after she graduated from Garrett High School. When she married Pete in April 1962, Lucy brought an 8-year-old daughter, Jeanne, to the marriage.

When he wasn't busy working at his agency — even after suffering a stroke five years ago, he returned to work at the office part-time — Mr. Brennan found plenty to do. He was a member of the Garrett Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Elks, Eagles, Knights of Columbus, Chamber of Commerce and Lions Club and was past president of the DeKalb County Welfare Board. He also served on the Morrill Foundation board and as Third Regional District Director of the Independent Insurance Agents of Indiana. He held the post of commander for the Garrett VFW.

One of his favorite pastimes was investing in the stock market.

"He was an intelligent man, and this worked well for him," Lucy said.

Though they were both children of the Great Depression and did not live extravagantly, Mr. Brennan enjoyed giving money to his favorite causes, his wife said.

He offered a $500,000 donation to the Garrett Community YMCA fund when the capital campaign was sagging.

"Without his donation, we could not finish the project," said Sue Blotkamp, longtime director of the Garrett Community Center. "We were stuck — his donation opened the capital campaign wide open to grants such as the one received from the Dekko Foundation."

A plaque bearing Mr. Brennan's portrait hangs inside the door of the YMCA, and the gymnasium bears his name.

Mr. Brennan also liked to contribute to his lifelong church, St. Joseph Catholic Church, as well as to his alma mater, St. Joseph School, both in Garrett. After he suffered a severely disabling stroke, third-graders at St. Joseph School sent letters and cards to cheer him up.

His passions were bowling, golf and traveling with Lucy.

"I swear sometimes he would rather play golf than eat," Lucy remembers. "One year he made a hole-in-one, and that made him very happy."

He was also an excellent bowler. A trophy clock he won for scoring 298 — only two points from a perfect 300 — is on display in the family's living room.

Pete and Lucy especially loved traveling to Mexico, although they also visited London, Italy, Spain, Russia and Switzerland. The couple returned to Mexico more than 20 times.

"Even after he had the stroke and was in Provena Sacred Heart nursing home, he would say, 'Let's go to Mexico,'" Lucy said, smiling through tears.

Mr. Brennan was born in Garrett on July 27, 1911, to Peter and Agnes (Lauby) Brennan. He was one of six children and was especially close to all of his nieces and nephews.

"He made it a point to go to all of their weddings and graduations," Lucy said.

The high school yearbook inscription under his senior picture reads: "Bernard has accomplished much for his class and Garrett High School."

Bernard "Pete" Brennan continued that entrepreneurial and philanthropic way of life until the very end, giving his all to family and friends and those in need, but especially to his beloved community.

## John Miller

WATERLOO — John Francis Miller, 64, of Waterloo died Friday, Sept. 28, 2007, in a farming accident near his home.

**Mr. Miller**

Mr. Miller was a lifelong farmer and served in the Indiana National Guard.

He was a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Waterloo, the Edgerton Council of the Knights of Columbus and the Hamilton Fish and Game Club. He was a proud father and grandfather.

He was born Feb. 2, 1943, in Garrett to Paul and Bernadine (Herber) Miller, who both preceded him in death.

He is survived by a son and daughter-in-law, Andy and Tracy Miller of Carmel; two daughters and sons-in-law, Anna and Thad Nixon of Auburn, and Monica and C.J. Theriac of Indianapolis; four brothers and two sisters-in-law, Herman Miller of Auburn, Norbert and Doris Miller of Waterloo, Ed Miller of Waterloo, and Bill and Lilly Miller of Jacksonville, Fla.; a sister and brother-in-law, Mary and Ken Dunn of Bufford, Ga.; and five grandchildren, Elizabeth Miller, Drew Miller, Grace Miller, Alexis Nixon and Caleb Nixon.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Waterloo, with the Rev. David Carkenord officiating. Burial will be in St. Michael's Catholic Cemetery in Waterloo.

Calling will be from 2 to 8 p.m. Monday at Feller Funeral Home in Waterloo.

Memorials are to St. Michael's Catholic Church.

## Mildred Fordyce

WOLCOTTVILLE — Mildred L. Fordyce, 77, of Wolcottville died Sunday, Sept. 30, 2007, at Parkview Noble Hospital in Kendallville.

Mrs. Fordyce

Mrs. Fordyce had retired from Monsanto/Silgan Plastics in Ligonier after 28 years. She had also been the bookkeeper for the family business, Fordyce Excavating, and in the past she worked for Indiana Bell Telephone for eight years.

She graduated as valedictorian of her class from Ashley High School in 1948.

Mrs. Fordyce enjoyed supporting her husband as he entertained playing the drums and calling square dances all over northern Indiana. She loved to go camping and fishing and spending the winter months in Florida, She also enjoyed cooking and knitting.

Mrs. Fordyce was born near Ashley on March 19, 1930, to Cecil and Rena Rutheda (Perkins) Hanes. She married Charles William Fordyce on Sept. 3, 1952, in Angola. He survives.

Also surviving are four daughters and three sons-in-law, Deanna and Jerry Hart of Wolcottville, Cynthia Creech and her companion, George Speakman, of Howe, Candace and Howard Hoke of South Milford and Carla and William Morgan of Hampton, Va.; two sisters, Beatrice Pence of Garrett and Phyllis Hines of Marcellus, Mich.; six grandchildren, Erica McNutt of Garrett, Robert Hart of LaGrange, Kenneth Hart of Wolcottville and Daniel Jenkins, Kayla Jenkins and Xavier Hoke, all of South Milford; and four great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville with the Rev. Clarence Combs officiating. Burial will be at Woodland Cemetery in Wolcottville.

Calling will be from 4-8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be made to Riley Children's Hospital.

View a video tribute (after Tuesday) or send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com

## Jerry Worthington

FORT WAYNE — Jerry D. Worthington, 60, of Fort Wayne and formerly of Garrett died Friday, Sept. 28, 2007.

He was born Sept. 1, 1947 in Hillsdale, Mich., to John L. and Helen C. Worthington. His parents preceded him in death.

There will be no calling or services.

Thomas Funeral Home of Garrett is handling arrangements.

## Treva Lovette

GARRETT — Treva M. Lovette, 87, of Garrett died Sept. 20, 2007, in Snellville, Ga.

Mrs. Lovette

Surviving are a son, Larry Lovette of Snellville, Ga.; six grandchildren, Chris Rogers of Highland Ranch, Colo., Scott Schafer of Littleton, Colo., Kim Schafer of Cincinnati, Ohio, Jennifer Clark of Layton, Utah, Kelly Cannon of Covington, Ga., and Leah Lovette of Mobile, Ala.; six great-grandchildren, Sean Rogers, Megan Rogers, Kelsey Cannon, Chase Cannon, Lauren Schafer and Ashley Schafer; a sister, Sharon Butler of Kendallville; and two brothers, Jack Rahrig of Stroh and Jim Rahrig of Garrett.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Oliver Lovette; a son, Jimmy Lovette, a daughter, Charlene Schafer; a brother, Red Rahrig; a sister, Kate Burtch; her mother, Irene Rahrig; her father, Alfred Rahrig; a grandmother, Claire Johnson; and a grandfather, Charles Johnson.

A graveside service celebrating her life will be Thursday at 11 a.m. at Christian Union Cemetery in Garrett, with Pastor Jim Lilley officiating. Family members will receive friends after the service.

Anyone with questions regarding the service may contact Tom M. Wages Funeral Service, Snellville, Ga., (770) 979-3200.

To view a memorial DVD tribute, visit the Web site www.wagesfuneralhome.com.

## Gordon Wyne

ELLENTON, Fla. — Gordon Wyne, 96, of Ellenton, Fla., and formerly of Auburn died Sept. 30, 2007, at Parkview North Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Wyne was a farmer in DeKalb County for more than 30 years. He worked as a machinist for Warner Gear in Auburn for more than 37 years, retiring in 1972. He attended the United Methodist Church in Ellenton, Fla.

Mr. Wyne

He was born Aug. 28, 1911, in Selma, Ind., to Harvey P. and Laura P. (Williams) Wyne.

He married Doris E. (Mumford) Wyne on June 7, 1930, in New Burlington. She died April 11, 1981.

He then married Verna P. (Cuehn) Abbey-Wyne on April 22, 1983, in Bradenton, Fla. She died May 8, 1989.

Surviving are three daughters and a son-in-law, Betty Culler of New Haven, Frances Wyne of Nixa, Mo., and Harriett and Bob Walker of Auburn; one son and daughter-in-law, Larry and Pam Wyne of Circle Pine, Minn.; 20 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren and 21 great-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two wives, one son, Gordon Wyne Jr., three sisters, one brother and four grandsons.

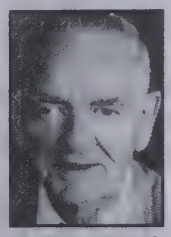
Services will be Friday at 2 p.m. in Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Pastor Don Tate will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Thursday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Parkview North Hospice.

## Claude Richmond

BUTLER — Claude "Al" Richmond, 66, of Butler died Monday, Oct. 1, 2007, at his home.


Mr. Richmond

Mr. Richmond retired from Bryan Custom Plastics after 15 years of service and worked at Wal-Mart for four years.

He was born Dec. 8, 1940, in Wheeling, W. Va., to Claude and Gladys (Hughes) Richmond. They preceded him in death.

He married Pamela Treharn on June 11, 1960, in McKinley Heights, Ohio. She died March 13, 2006.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Fredrick and Vicki Richmond of Butler; two daughters and a son-in-law, Christie "Sam" Butler of Pleasant Lake and Kandie and Andy Dellinger of Butler; a brother, George Richmond of Amherst, Ohio; and 11 grandchildren.

Services will be Thursday at 11 a.m. in H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler, with Pastor Justin Fisher officiating.

Calling will be Wednesday from 4-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

To view a video tribute, visit www.hejohnsonfh.com.

# Area businessman Donald Leatherman dies

ALBION — Donald C. Leatherman, 81, of Albion died at 1:55 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 30, 2007, at Avalon Village Nursing Home in Ligonier where he had been a resident the past five years.

Mr. Leatherman

Mr. Leatherman was the former facilities manager for Group Dekko. He was the owner of Trail Haven RVs and was co-owner of Leatherman Brothers Garage.

A graduate of Albion High School, Mr. Leatherman enjoyed genealogy.

He joined the U.S. Army in March 1944 during World War II and was discharged in May 1946. He then entered the Navy Reserve Seabees in 1949 and retired as a master chief petty officer in 1984. His military career spanned more than 37 years and during that tenure he received many awards, including the Pulliam Award as the Outstanding Naval Reservist in the state in 1969.

Mr. Leatherman was a member of Asbury United Methodist Church in Albion, a 57-year member of the Albion Rotary Club where he received a 50-year award for perfect attendance in 2000 and the Paul Harris Award in 1992. He was also a 50-year member of Albion American Legion Post 246.

He was born Jan. 1, 1926, in Garrett to Daniel and Blanche (Hardendorf) Leatherman. He married Barbara Bonar on July 13, 1947, at First United Methodist Church in Albion. She died April 10, 2001.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Gary and Cindy Leatherman of Albion; two daughters and sons-in-law, Sheri and John Auld of Albion and Karen and Dude Holbrook of Kendallville; six brothers, Ernest, Everett, Lee, Joe, Mick and Keith Leatherman, all of Albion; three sisters, Helen Cardinal and Joan Bushong, both of Albion, and Faunda Muesing of Haw River, N.C.; 11 grandchildren and their spouses, Rose and Bob Brown, Rhonda and Dallas Dean, Janene Kruse, Michelle and Leigh Bellinger, Krista Auld, Karlea and Ryan Cook, Marc and Amy Leatherman, Jamie and David Worman, Cyra and Kevin Kline, Jace Mundon and Konrad Mundon; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Brazzell Funeral Home, Albion Chapel, 771 Trail Ridge Road, Albion, with the Rev. Dr. Dan Barker officiating. Burial will be in Rose Hill Cemetery in Albion with military rites by Albion American Legion Post 246.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home and one half hour prior to services Thursday.

Memorials are to Noble House or Southern Care Hospice.

Condolences may be sent online to brazzellfuneralhome.com.

## Dorothy Thrush

GARRETT — Dorothy Bea (Lytle) Thrush, 95, of rural Garrett died Sunday, Sept. 30, 2007, at Miller's Merry Manor nursing home in Garrett with her family by her side.

Upon graduation from Convoy High School, she worked at General Electric in Fort Wayne until starting her family and becoming a full-time homemaker.

Faith, family and friends were her passions. She was a longtime member of the Altar Star United Methodist Church. She enjoyed hosting family dinners complete with homemade pies, cakes and cookies, usually followed by card games of euchre and pinochle.

She was born Dec. 6, 1911, in Tully Township in Van Wert County, Ohio, in the home of her parents, Asbury and Mary Etta (Burley) Lytle.

She married Albert Heitz Thrush on Dec. 3, 1938. They had two sons and daughters-in-law, William Albert "Bill" and Diana Lynn Thrush and Dennis Dale and Sheryl Ann Thrush. Her husband and sons preceded her in death.

Surviving are two grandsons and their wives, Craig Alan and Allison Rene Thrush and Todd Dennis and Katie Thrush; and six great-grandchildren, Nathaniel James, Savannah Jordan, Dakota Faith, Camron Jae, Dalton Dennis and Marissa Renae.

She also was preceded in death by eight brothers, Harley Wesley, Arthur Washington, Russell Willliam, Lester Lawrence, Hobart "Herbie," Clifford Lee, Corwin Burley, Manford Dee, and two sisters, Stella Goldie (Lytle) Murphy and Ethel Mae (Lytle) Hipsher.

Services will be Thursday at 11 a.m. in Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, conducted by Pastor Kathy Thompson. Burial will be in Cedar Creek Cemetery of rural Garrett.

Calling will be Wednesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. and Thursday from 10-11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Altar Star United Methodist Church.

## Wendell Blaker

BUTLER — Wendell L. Blaker, 67, of Butler died Monday, Oct. 1, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr . Blaker worked at Eaton Corp. for more than 40 years.

He was born Aug. 19, 1940, in Butler to Howard and Goldie (Funk) Blaker. They preceded him in death.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Brian and Jenny Blaker of Butler; a daughter, Dawn Blaker of Butler; a brother, Jack Blaker of Butler; two sisters, Phyllis Richmond of Pleasant Lake and Marilyn Blossom of Pleasant Lake; and two grandchildren, Makenna and Kaitlyn Blaker of Butler.

Services will be Wednesday at 1 p.m. in H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home, Butler, with Pastor Dale Rabineau officiating. Burial will be in the Butler Cemetery.

Calling will be Wednesday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the funeral home.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** *is being reprinted with a correction. We apologize for the omission of one name in Tuesday's edition.*

## Dorothy Thrush

GARRETT — Dorothy Bea (Lytle) Thrush, 95, of rural Garrett died Sunday, Sept. 30, 2007, at Miller's Merry Manor nursing home in Garrett with her family by her side.

Upon graduation from Convoy High School, she worked at General Electric in Fort Wayne until starting her family and becoming a full-time homemaker.

Faith, family and friends were her passions. She was a longtime member of the Altar Star United Methodist Church. She enjoyed hosting family dinners complete with homemade pies, cakes and cookies, usually followed by card games of euchre and pinochle.

She was born Dec. 6, 1911, in Tully Township in Van Wert County, Ohio, in the home of her parents, William Asbury and Mary Etta (Burley) Lytle.

She married Albert Heitz Thrush on Dec. 3, 1938. They had two sons and daughters-in-law, William Albert "Bill" and Diana Lynn Thrush and Dennis Dale and Sheryl Ann Thrush. Her husband and sons preceded her in death.

Surviving are two grandsons and their wives, Craig Alan and Allison Rene Thrush and Todd Dennis and Katie Thrush; and six great-grandchildren, Nathaniel James, Savannah Jordan, Dakota Faith, Camron Jae, Dalton Dennis and Marissa Renae.

She also was preceded in death by eight brothers, Harley Wesley, Arthur Washington, Russell William, Lester Lawrence, Hobart "Herbie," Clifford Lee, Corwin Burley, Manford Dee, and two sisters, Stella Goldie (Lytle) Murphy and Ethel Mae (Lytle) Hipsher.

Services will be Thursday at 11 a.m. in Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, conducted by Pastor Kathy Thompson. Burial will be in Cedar Creek Cemetery of rural Garrett.

Calling will be today from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. and Thursday from 10-11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Altar Star United Methodist Church.

## Charles Decker Jr.

AUBURN — Charles Edward Decker Jr., 76, of Auburn died Tuesday, Oct. 2, 2007, at Betz Nursing Home after a brief illness.

Mr. Decker had owned and operated the Log Cabin Market in Auburn from 1957 to 2007. He attended New Hope Christian Center in Waterloo and enjoyed fishing and working in his flower beds. He was especially fond of his constant canine companion, Buddy.

Mr. Decker grew up in Huntertown and graduated from Huntertown High School in 1949. He then served four years in the Navy reserve.

He was born Oct. 19, 1930, in Continental, Ohio, to Charles Decker Sr. and Joella (Pitney) Decker. They preceded him in death.

He married Helen McConnell on Oct. 28, 1959, in Auburn. She survives.

Also surviving are three sons and two daughters-in-law, Charlie, Daniel and Cathy and Robert and Sharon, all of Auburn; a daughter, Mary Susan Green of Auburn; eight grandsons, three granddaughters, two great-granddaughters, one stepgranddaughter, two stepgrandsons, two stepgreat-granddaughters and two stepgreat-grandsons; a brother and sister-in-law, Thomas and Sharon of Huntertown; a sister, Barbara Springer of Fort Wayne; and nieces and nephews.

Services will be Friday at 10:30 a.m. in McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, with Pastor Ralph Diehl officiating. Burial will be in Huntertown Cemetery.

Calling will be Thursday from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. and Friday from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to a charity of the donor's choice.

## Theo Clouse

HUDSON — Theo N. Clouse, 82, of Hudson died Tuesday, Oct. 2, 2007, at her home.

Mrs. Clouse

Mrs. Clouse worked at Stanadyne in Garrett for 20 years, retiring in 1987. She was a member of the Auburn Church of the Nazarene and Tri County Shirts and Skirts Square Dancing Club.

She was born Oct. 8, 1924, in LaOtto, to William Henry and Blanche Marie (Christlieb) Klinger.

She married James Clouse on June 27, 1987, in Waterloo. He survives.

Also surviving are five daughters and sons-in-law, Linda Joy and Bill Powell of Waterloo, Barbara and Ricky Myers of Waterloo, Marsha and Dave Huguenard of Pierceton, Cindy and Bill Lepley of Waterloo and Annette and Art Timmis of Lima, Ohio; three stepdaughters and their spouses, Debbie and Tom Marker of Montandon, Pa., Dianna and Douglas Miller of Wolcottville, and Darlene and Joe Leaders of LaOtto; a stepson and his wife, William and Paula Clouse of Winter Haven, Fla.; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Norman and Gladys Klinger of Fort Wayne and Delphus and Marion Klinger of Garrett; two sisters and brothers-in-law, Barbara and John Stoner of Florida and Joan and Ed Slater of Leo; 18 grandchildren, seven stepgrandchildren, 31 great-grandchildren and one stepgreat-grandson.

She was preceded in death by her parents, a stepson, James Clouse Jr.; two sisters, Florence Edna Klinger and Ellen Savoie; two brothers, Walter Klinger and Jesse Klinger; and two grandsons, Daunte Bryce Powell and Brian Creager.

Services will be Friday at 2 p.m. in the Auburn Church of the Nazarene, 2301 N. Main St. The Rev. Dan White will officiate. Burial will be Circle Cemetery at Hudson.

Calling will be at the church Thursday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. and Friday from 1-2 p.m.

Memorials are to the church.

Feller Funeral Home of Waterloo is handling arrangements.

## Lavancha Tucker

FORT WAYNE — Lavancha Luanne Tucker, 53, of Fort Wayne died Thursday, Oct. 4, 2007, at her residence.

Mrs. Tucker was a member of Freimann Square Fellowship in Fort Wayne, and she enjoyed crafts and crocheting.

She was born in Kendallville on Jan. 30, 1954, to Jesse and Hazel B. (Frain) Samples. Her father is deceased and her mother survives in Kendallville.

Also surviving are her husband, Charles Knight of Fort Wayne; two sons and daughters-in-law, Dustin and Osie Tucker and Richard and Shelie Tucker, all of Fort Wayne; three stepchildren, Charles Knight Jr., Keith Knight and Holly Knight, all of Fort Wayne; a grandson, Cody Tackett of Kendallville; three stepgrandchildren, Amiee Knight, Heather Knight and Travis Knight, all of Fort Wayne; five brothers and three sisters-in-law, Gary and Dorla Tucker of Corunna, Donald Tucker of Peru, Dawson Tucker of Kendallville, Dowine and Jand Tucker of Rome City, and Randy and Sharon Tucker of Columbia City; and two sisters, Coleen and Philes Van Shockey of Talcum, Ky., and Trisha and Richard Kelly of Wolcottville.

She was also preceded in death by a brother, Marion Tucker, and a sister, Rilla Tucker.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville with Pastor Ron Bodendorf officiating.

Calling will be from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family.

Send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com

## Helene Holmes

KENDALLVILLE — Helene Holmes, 85, of Kendallville died Thursday, Oct. 4, 2007, at her residence.

Ms. Holmes retired from S.S. Kresge Dime Store in Elkhart after more than 40 years of employment.

She enjoyed reading.

Ms. Holmes was born in Corunna on Dec. 26, 1921, to Merle L. and Dora Faye (McCullough) Holmes.

Surviving are a sister, Eloise Vachon of Auburn; three nieces, Karen Diehl and her husband, Fred, of Auburn, Darla Krafft of Butler and Julia Grate of Kendallville; four nephews and their wives, Marty and Mary Holmes of Corunna, Neal and Faye Holmes of Sierra Vista, Ariz., and Roger Holmes and Larry Holmes, both of Indiana.

She was preceded in death by her parents and two brothers, Homer Holmes and Harry Holmes.

Graveside services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at Corunna Cemetery with the Rev. Richard Pickard officiating.

Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville is in charge of arrangements.

Send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com

## Donald Graves

FORT WAYNE — Donald L. Graves, 89, died Monday, Oct. 1, 2007, at Nathan Adelson Hospice-East in Las Vegas, Nev.

Born in Wadsworth, Ohio, he was a tool engineer with Robert Shaw Controls for 30 years, retiring in 1981.

Surviving are a stepson, John Lindley of Wilwood, Mo.; and sister-in-law and her husband, Leta and Art Strong of Auburn.

He was preceded in death by his wives, Donna (Stanford) Graves and Donna (Lindley) Graves.

A chapel service will be Monday at 10:30 a.m. in Covington Memorial Gardens, 8408 Covington Road, Fort Wayne.

D.O. McComb & Sons Covington Knolls Funeral Home, 8325 Covington Road, is handling arrangements.

Memorials are to the American Heart Association.

## Linda Swim

READING, Mich. — Linda Kay Swim, 62, of Reading, Mich., died Wednesday, Oct. 3, 2007, at the Hillsdale Community Health Center.

Mrs. Swim was devoted to her family and loved reading and Bible study.

She was born on Aug. 24, 1945, in Cincinnati to Robert and Catherine (Call) Hogan. Both preceded her in death. She married Timothy Swim on Sept. 7, 1961. He survives.

Also surviving are three daughter and sons-in-law, Tammy and Doug Warstler of Waterloo, Gidget and Robert Fike of Auburn, and Tiffani and Tim VanAuken of Reading; a sister and brother-in-law, Tonya and Tracy Israel of Middletown, Ohio; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Robert Jr. and Regina Hogan of Amelia, Ohio, and Ronald and Kim Hogan of Angola; four grandchildren and a spouse, Timothy and Megan Warstler, Christie Warstler, Kaylynn Fike and Noah Fike.

She was also preceded in death by a brother, Anthony Hogan.

Services will be held Saturday at 1 p.m. at the George White Funeral Home in Reading, with the Rev. Clare Jewell officiating. Burial will follow at West Reading Cemetery.

Calling is today from 6 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Arthritis Foundation.

This obituary is being reprinted to provide additional information

## Harold Stabe

KENDALLVILLE — Harold F. Stabe, 95, of Kendallville died Thursday, Oct. 4, 2007, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Stabe

Mr. Stabe was a Noble County farmer and worked at the Noble County Surveyor's Office. He also was employed with International Harvester and the Auburn Cord Duesenberg factory in Auburn.

He was a member of St. John Lutheran Church in Kendallville where he helped the treasurer. He was an Angus farmer, a member of the Rollin' Oldies Car Club, loved helping and caring for others, and had a great sense of humor.

He was born in DeKalb County on March 24, 1912, to Frederick Lewis and Maude M. (Haynes) Stabe. He was first married to Lorene B. Hissong on Dec. 30, 1953. She died May 16, 1954. He was later married to Betty Sollenberger Stackhouse on Oct. 21, 1972, and she survives.

Other survivors include two daughters and sons-in-law, Sandra and Jim Hagerty of Kendallville and Sharry and Dave Wible of Columbia City; and considered a son and special friend and wife, Fred and Mari Roeder of Tularosa, N.M.; five granddaughters and spouses, Diana and David Ladig of New Haven, Jennifer and Travis Roark of Fort Wayne, Sara and Shawn Schuller of Columbia City, and Lana Snyder and Lisa McDaniel, both of Auburn; three grandsons and spouses, Kevin and Vickie Bortner of Ligonier, Ron and Sandra Bortner of Huntington and Terry and Elizabeth Bortner of Ligonier; 18 great-grandchildren; five great-great-grandchildren; and many special friends and caregivers.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a daughter, Jacqueline M. Snyder; a son, Fredie Lee Stabe; a grandson, Lynn Snyder; and a granddaughter, Vecki Bortner.

Services will be Monday at 11 a.m. at St. John Lutheran Church in Kendallville with the Rev. Robert Shriner and the Rev. Al Wingfield officiating. Burial will be at Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville.

Calling will be Sunday from 3-5 and 6-9 p.m. at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville.

Memorials are to the St. John Lutheran Church Alter Guild.

Pallbearers will be Kevin Bortner, Harold "Salty" Casselman, Henry Shull, Bill Sibert, John Clifton and Walt Domer. Honorary pallbearers will be Fred Roeder, John Thrapp and Ed Perkins.

Condolences may be sent to www.hitefuneralhome.com.

## Richard Drake

SPENCERVILLE — Richard J. Drake, 71, of Spencerville died Thursday, Oct. 4, 2007, at his home.

Mr. Drake

Born in Auburn, Mr. Drake worked at International Harvester for 13 years and was a self-employed general contractor.

He was a member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church and the Kendallville Eagles. He was a Scoutmaster with the Boy Scouts and a Little League baseball coach in St. Joe.

Surviving are his wife, Mary E. of Spencerville; nine sons, Raymond Drake of Auburn, Dennis Drake of Florida, Daniel Drake of Spencerville, David Drake of Texas, Randy Drake of St. Joe, Donald Drake of Evansville, John Drake of Indianapolis, Gregg Drake of Leo and William Drake of Spencerville; two daughters and sons-in-law, Barbara and Rick Wallen of Wolcottville and Sandy and Jim Feller of Hicksville, Ohio; 27 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; and a sister, Patricia Todd of Rome City.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Claudia Simons, and a brother, Tom Drake.

Services will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 500 E. Seventh St., Auburn. Burial will be in Roselawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Monday from 5-8 p.m. at McComb, Dilgard and Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, and Tuesday from 10-11 a.m. at the church Tuesday.

Memorials are to Masses at the church.

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## Harold Worden

ANGOLA — Harry Shannon Worden, 85, of Angola died Friday, Oct. 5, 2007.

Mr. Worden

Mr. Worden joined the U.S. Navy in October 1942 and served as a radio operator on the U.S.S. Finch Destroyer Escort. He was employed by International Harvester for 31 years until his retirement in 1979.

He was a member of the Masonic Lodge, American Legion and Veterans of Foreign War, all of Garrett, and was an avid golfer, bowler and Florida Gator football fan.

He was born March 31, 1922, in Fort Wayne to Hershal and Myrtle (Shannon) Worden. He married Pauline June Smith on Nov. 15, 1947, and they were together for 58 years until her death on Jan. 31, 2006. In 1980, after he retired, the couple moved to Florida, where Mr. Worden obtained his real estate license.

Survivors include sons and daughters-in-law, Dennis and Linda Worden of Angola and Randy and Diana Worden of Noblesville; and two grandsons, Eric Worden of Fort Wayne and Joel Worden of Noblesville.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by three brothers, Jackie, Edward and Richard, and a sister, Wanda.

Services will be Monday at 11 a.m. at Johnson Funeral Home, 612 N. Main St., Hudson, with Chaplain Paul Marki officiating. Burial is in Fairfield Cemetery. Garrett American Legion will conduct graveside military rites.

Calling will be Sunday from 4 to 8 p.m. A Masonic service will be held at 7:30 p.m.

Condolences may be sent to Johnson@ bnin.net.

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# Ankenbruck man who loved to fly

**BY JIM SHILANDER**
jims@kpcnews.net

LAKE JAMES — When more than 20 seaplanes flew into Lake James Sept. 23, their way in was cleared, in part, by Wayne Ankenbruck.

Ankenbruck died Wednesday at age 71 at Hospice Home in Fort Wayne following a battle with Alzheimer's.

Wayne, his brother Ron Ankenbruck said, was the first to bring in a seaplane on the lake, doing so more than 20 years ago. Flying, his brother said, was always a passion for Wayne.

"When I was a kid my brother Jerry, myself and Wayne would all sleep in the same room. Wayne would make these airplanes out of little sticks and cover them with paper. I would wake up and he'd have hung a bunch of planes right above my head from the ceiling," Ankenbruck said.

Airplanes would be a part of Wayne Ankenbruck's entire life. He served in the Air National Guard, and his brother said, convinced him to join the service as well. He inspired other family members to get into aviation as well, as a grandson, Justin, serves in the Air Force, a nephew, David, flies planes and his son-in-law Keith has purchased his own plane after becoming interested through Wayne. From building airplanes with sticks and paper eventually came another hobby, and later, a job.

Ankenbruck, his brother said, would build his own airplanes using kits he purchased.

"They would come in thousands of pieces that he'd have to put together," Ankenbruck said. "He was a perfectionist with this stuff, and you couldn't afford not to be, since he flew all of his own planes."

Later in life, Wayne took a job selling planes for Progressive Aerodyne, a company in Orlando. The head of the company, Wayne Richter, said he and Ankenbruck became good friends over their shared first name. He said Ankenbruck's passion for flying made him a good salesman.

"He sold over 40 planes, probably more than anyone we've ever had," Richter said. Richter said when they would see each other at air shows, particularly one in Osh Kosh, Wis., and his love of flying was evident for all to see.

"He had a passion for flying, but he'd also just love to talk about the planes. He was a real hustler, in the sense that he worked very hard," Richter said. "He gave really personal service. Everyone really liked Wayne."

Richter said he was also struck by Ankenbruck's commitment to his health, including eating healthy. During the air shows they attended, he said, Ankenbruck would come only with a bag of carrots, which he would eat all day.

Ron Ankenbruck said his brother was very regimented in his fitness habits.

"He'd get up every morning at 4 or 5 a.m. to do sit-ups and pushups, he was very focussed on having a flat stomach. He took really good care of himself."

In addition to his passion for aircraft, Ron said, Wayne loved the water.

Ankenbruck owned several boats and would indulge in a form of water skiing that showed off his fitness and mechanical skills, Ron said.

"He would take piece of plywood, and cut a big circle out of it. Then he would sit on a wooden chair, just a regular old wooden chair, and he'd be water skiing while sitting in the chair. Then he would pull the rope to make himself do a 360. That was his favorite trick. I've never seen anyone out there do that," he said.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Wayne Ankenbruck is shown in the captain's seat in a boat on Lake James. Ankenbruck loved boating but flying even more.**

*The following obituary is being republished to correct errors.*

## Harold Stabe

KENDALLVILLE — Harold F. Stabe, 95, of Kendallville died Thursday, Oct. 4, 2007, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Stabe was a Noble County Angus farmer and worked at the Noble County Surveyor's Office. He also was employed with International Harvester and the Auburn Cord Duesenberg factory in Auburn.

Mr. Stabe

He was a member of St. John Lutheran Church in Kendallville where he helped the treasurer. He was a member of the Rollin' Oldies Car Club, loved helping and caring for others, and had a great sense of humor.

He was born in DeKalb County on March 24, 1912, to Frederick Lewis and Maude M. (Haynes) Stabe. He married Lorene B. Hissong Dec. 30, 1933. She died May 13, 1964. He later married Betty Sollenberger Stackhouse Oct. 21, 1972, and she survives.

Also surviving are: two daughters and sons-in-law, Sandra and Jim Hagerty of Kendallville and Sharry and Dave Wiehe of Columbia City; and considered a son and special friend and wife, Fred and Maria Roeder of Tularosa, N.M.; five granddaughters and their spouses, Diana and David Ladig of New Haven, Jennifer and Travis Roark of Fort Wayne, Sara and Shawn Schuller of Columbia City, and Lana Snyder and Lisa McDaniel, both of Auburn; three grandsons and their spouses, Kevin and Vickie Bortner of Ligonier, Ron and Sandra Bortner of Huntington and Terry and Elizabeth Bortner of Ligonier; 18 great-grandchildren; five great-great grandchildren; and many special friends and caregivers.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a daughter, Jacqueline M. Snyder; a son, Fredie Lee Stabe; a grandson, Lynn Snyder; and a granddaughter, Vicki Bortner.

Services will be Monday at 11 a.m. at St. John Lutheran Church in Kendallville with the Rev. Robert Shriner and the Rev. Al Wingfield officiating. Burial will be at Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville.

Calling will be Sunday from 3-5 and 6-9 p.m. at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville.

Memorials are to the St. John Lutheran Church Alter Guild.

Pallbearers will be Kevin Bortner, Harold "Salty" Casselman, Henry Shull, Bill Sibert, John Clifton and Walt Domer. Honorary pallbearers will be Fred Roeder, John Thrapp and Ed Perkins.

Condolences may be sent to www.hitefuneralhome.com.

## Anita Marie Sapp

ANGOLA — Anita Marie Sapp, 85, of Fort Wayne died Friday, Oct. 5, 2007, at Heritage Park Nursing Home in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Sapp

A former Angola resident, Mrs. Sapp was a homemaker, and was formerly employed at Suttons Grocery in Angola for 10 years, Angola Scotts Grocery and General Electric in Fort Wayne. She enjoyed bowling and was a member of Angola Christian Church.

She was born Nov. 15, 1921 in Garrett, to Clyde L. and Clara (Gritschke) Ervin. She married Louis David Sapp in June 1945. He preceded her in death in 1963.

Surviving are one son and daughter-in-law, Kenneth James and Jodie L. Sapp of Ashley; one daughter and son-in-law, Gloria and Robert L. Draeger of Fort Wayne; a sister, Helen Pence of Bryan, Ohio; 10 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

In addition to her husband, she also was preceded in death by her parents; a son, Glenn David Sapp, in 1995; and two brothers, Charles and Paul Ervin.

Services will be 11 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 9 at Weicht Funeral Home in Angola with Pastor Jim Hulbert officiating. Burial will be at Christian Union Cemetery in Garrett.

Calling will be Monday from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. at Weicht Funeral Home in Angola.

Memorials are to the donor's choice of any United States veterans organization.

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## Kalene Hamman

AUBURN — Kalene Hamman, 65, of Auburn died Saturday, Oct. 6, 2007 at her daughter's home in Auburn.

Mrs. Hamman was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn. She graduated from Auburn High School in 1960.

She was born July 18, 1942, to E.M. "Bud" and Mary A. (Stoy) Axtell. She married Richard Hamman Sept. 10, 1960, in Auburn. He survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Mitchell A. and Mary Jo Hamman of Fishers; a daughter and son-in-law, Ann M. and Lacy Taulbee of Auburn; two sisters and one brother-in-law, Theresa and Rodney Guinn of Port Charlotte, Fla., and Mary Jean Warstler of Auburn; four grandchildren, Megan, Jill and Ben Hamman and Noah Glick; three step-grandchildren, Dawn McClanahan, Dana VanAuken and Jeremy Glick; one great-granddaughter, Zoey; and five step-great-grandsons, Lukas, Josiah, Matthew, Justin and Parker.

Services will be 11 a.m. Wednesday at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn. Burial will be in Catholic Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be Tuesday from 4-8 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 South Wayne St., Waterloo. A rosary will be recited at 5 p.m. Tuesday.

Memorials are to Immaculate Conception Church or masses.

## Ruth Jones

BUTLER — Ruth M. Jones, 86, died Sunday, Oct. 7, 2007, at Wesley HealthCare in Auburn.

Mrs. Jones

Mrs. Jones was a bookkeeper at the Butler Co. and worked for several years at Peoples Federal in Auburn.

She loved refinishing furniture, reading, doing needlepoint, tending to her flowers and spending time with her family. She was a member of New Hope Christian Center in Waterloo.

She was born Dec. 30, 1920, in Auburn to Orla E. and Clarissa Bihr.

She married John D. Jones on April 12, 1941, in Bryan, Ohio. He died July 31, 2001.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Dennis and Christina Jones of Hamilton; a daughter and son-in-law, Yvonne and Lowell King of Waterloo; five grandchildren and their spouses, Tammy and Jim Akins of Auburn Janelle Wilson of Ashley, Barbie and Bill Randolph of Angola, Melissa King of Waterloo and Jon King of Waterloo; a sister, Rosalyn Keesler of Elkhart; and six great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a sister, Reba Payne.

Services will be Thursday at 11 a.m. at H.E. Johnson & Son Funeral Home of Butler. Burial will be in Butler Cemetery.

Calling will be Wednesday from 3-7 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the New Hope Christian Center Missions Fund.

Condolences may be sent and a video tribute may be viewed at www.hejohnsonfh.com.

## Robert Hendricks

FORT WAYNE — Robert N. Hendricks, 82, of Fort Wayne died Saturday, Oct. 6, 2007, at his home.

Born in Auburn, he was a metallurgist with Joslyn/Slater Steel for 38 years, retiring in 1991.

He was a member of Fort Wayne Christian Church Disciples of Christ and was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II.

He enjoyed collecting antique clocks and was an avid fan of the Chicago Cubs and Purdue.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Richard and Carol Hendricks of Ballwin, Mo., four daughters and sons-in-law, Barbara and Richard Johnson of Naperville, Ill., Carolyn and Robert King of Auburn, Julia and Mark Arnold of Indianapolis and Nancy and Thomas Butcher of Fort Wayne; and two sisters and a brother-in-law, Suzanne Zeisloft of Auburn and Carol and Jon Carpenter of Leo.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Beverly, in 1998.

Services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. in D.O. McComb & Sons Foster Park Funeral Home, 6301 Fairfield Ave., Fort Wayne. Pastor Neil Allen will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Tuesday from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to First Christian Church.

## H. Donald Foster

INDIAN LAKE — H. Donald Foster, 81, of Indian Lake, northwest of Corunna, died Friday, Oct. 5, 2007, at his home.

Mr. Foster was a lifetime DeKalb County resident.

He had retired from G&L Corp. of Fort Wayne after more than 20 years of service.

Mr. Foster enjoyed gardening and taking care of his yard. He also enjoyed being around the lake and fishing.

He was born in Kendallville on Aug. 24, 1926, to Harry and Hazel Foster. They are deceased.

Surviving are his wife, Janet Foster of Indian Lake; a daughter, Beverly Watts of Portsmouth, Ohio; a sister, Evelyn Putt of Kendallville; six grandchildren, Bill Jr. and Dawn Watts of Dunn, N.C., Tina and Mike Barnett of Salyersville, Ky., and Martha Thompson, Bonnie Lyon, Hazel Hodge and Virginia Watts, all of Portsmouth; and 17 great-grandchildren.

He was also preceded in death by a sister, Arlene Poppy, and an infant brother.

Private family funeral services were held at Hite Funeral Home. Burial was at Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville.

Send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneral-home.com.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** *is being reprinted to include new information.*

## Ruth Jones

BUTLER — Ruth M. Jones, 86, died Sunday, Oct. 7, 2007, at Wesley HealthCare in Auburn.

Mrs. Jones

Mrs. Jones was a bookkeeper at the Butler Co. and worked for several years at Peoples Federal in Auburn.

She loved refinishing furniture, reading, doing needlepoint, tending to her flowers and spending time with her family. She was a member of New Hope Christian Center in Waterloo.

She was born Dec. 30, 1920, in Auburn to Orla E. and Clarissa (Bihr) Thiel.

She married John D. Jones on April 12, 1941, in Bryan, Ohio. He died July 31, 2001.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Dennis and Christina Jones of Hamilton; a daughter and son-in-law, Yvonne and Lowell King of Waterloo; five grandchildren and their spouses, Tammy and Jim Akins of Auburn Janelle Wilson of Ashley, Barbie and Bill Randolph of Angola, Melissa King of Waterloo and Jon King of Waterloo; a sister, Rosalyn Keesler of Elkhart; and six great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a sister, Reba Payne.

Services will be Thursday at 11 a.m. at H.E. Johnson & Son Funeral Home of Butler. Burial will be in Butler Cemetery.

Calling will be Wednesday from 3-7 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the New Hope Christian Center Missions Fund.

Condolences may be sent and a video tribute may be viewed at www.hejohnsonfh.com.

## Olan Krontz

AVON PARK, Fla. — Olan R. Krontz, 70, died Friday, Oct. 5, 2007, at the Oaks of Avon in Avon Park, Fla.

Mr. Krontz

Mr. Krontz graduated from Butler High School and served in the U.S. Navy.

He was employed by Auburn Gear in Auburn and resided in Phoenix, Ariz., Fort Lauderdale and Avon Park, Fla.

He liked to fish and hunt, was witty and had a great sense of humor. He loved to work with and be around people. He was employed at Tractor Supply in Sebring, Fla. He enjoyed telling stories and remembering his old friends in Indiana.

He was born Oct. 25, 1936, in Butler to Basil and Rosa (Rollins) Krontz.

Surviving are his wife, Joyce Krontz of Avon Park; a son, Olan Jr. of Lancaster, Ky.; a sister, Dolores Armstrong of Auburn, and an aunt, Edna Haffner of Butler.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Lynn, who died in infancy.

No services are planned.

Stephenson-Nelson Funeral Home of Avon Park, Fla. is handling arrangements.

## Harold Hecht

KENDALLVILLE — Harold Hecht, 96, of Mulberry and formerly of Kendallville died Sunday, Oct. 7, 2007, at Lutheran Villa Nursing Home in Mulberry with his family by his side.

Mr. Hecht

Mr. Hecht had been a carpenter and employed in the construction industry all of his life.

He graduated in 1929 as the valedictorian at Salem Center High School in Steuben County where he was a member of the basketball team.

Mr. Hecht was a member of the U.S. Army and a World War II veteran. He trained in tanks at Fort Knox and was a member of the Army 745th Tank Battalion that landed at Omaha Beach and worked its way through the Battle of the Bulge to Czechoslovakia. He received a citation of honor for pulling a fellow soldier from a burning tank.

Upon his return home from the war, Mr. Hecht resumed his construction and carpentry occupation throughout northeast Indiana. He was a member of Zion Lutheran Church near Corunna and many times during his life helped to remodel the church.

He was born near Helmer on June 30, 1911, to Edwin and Kathrine "Kitty" (Glasgow) Hecht. He married Lucille Hilda Hasselman on March 17, 1934, at the Zion Lutheran Church parsonage. She died on July 23, 2003.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Dr. Lynn and Ann Hecht of Bruceville, Ind.; five grandchildren, Dr. Aaron Hecht of Indianapolis, Dr. Kimberly and Jeff McDonough of Jamestown, R.I., and Kristine and Gerald Ripke, Kevin and Julie Ply, and Andrew Hecht, all of Lafayette; 10 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandson.

He was also preceded in death by his parents; a daughter and son-in-law, Joyce Joan on May 3, 1995, and William Ply; a brother, Willard Hecht; and two sisters, Amy Kline and Grace Beaulieu.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Zion Lutheran Church near Corunna with the Rev. Al Wingfield officiating. Burial will be at Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville.

Calling will be from 4-7 p.m. Wednesday at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville.

Memorials are to Zion Lutheran Church.

Send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

## James Burns

GARRETT — James R. Burns, 69, of Garrett died Saturday, Oct. 6, 2007, at Hospice Home of Fort Wayne.

Mr. Burns retired from Holsum Bakery in Illinois and moved to Indiana one year ago.

He enjoyed his Mustang convertible and going to car shows.

Surviving are his wife, Barbara (Byanski) Burns; two daughters and a son-in-law, Kimberly Burns of Plainfield, Ill., and Kandice and Christopher Matthews of Houston, Texas; a granddaughter, Mackenzie Matthews, also of Houston; a sister and brother-in-law, Roberta and Ernst Miraldi of Westchester, Ill.; nieces and nephews Michelle and Ernst Miraldi Jr.; a brother, Richard Burns of Berwyn, Ill.; a sister-in-law, Sandra Byanski Kotek and a brother-in-law, Thomas Kotek of Lemont, Ill.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Albert and Anita (Eck) Burns.

Private services were held. Northeast Indiana Cremation Society of Fort Wayne handled arrangements.

## John Pierce Sr.

BUTLER — John W. Pierce Sr., 87, of Butler was laid to rest Tuesday, Oct. 9, 2007, in Florida National Cemetery at Bushnell, Fla., with military honors by the Florida National Guard. He died Feb. 21, 2007.

Mr. Pierce Sr.

"Bill," as he was known to all, served in the U.S. Army in the Philippines in World War II. He was a bugler in the 8th Cavalry and a private first class .

Surviving are his wife, E. Marilyn of Butler; a son and daughter-in-law, John Pierce Jr. and Phyllis Pierce of Butler; a daughter and son-in-law, Sharon and Jerry Monarch of Florida; his grandsons, Perry Patterson of North Carolina, Shane Patterson and his wife, Loy, of Montana and Gary Pierce of Butler; a granddaughter and her husband, Stacey and Scott Boxberger of Waterloo; and two great-grandchildren, Jeffrey and Paige Boxberger of Waterloo.

## Gerald Winebrenner

JANESVILLE, Wis. — Gerald E. Winebrenner, 54, of Janesville, Wis., died Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2007, from injuries he sustained in an automobile accident.

Mr. Winebrenner was born in Garrett on Dec. 19, 1952, the son of Donald Howard and Eunice Joyce (Bonnell) Winebrenner.

He graduated from Purdue University and moved to Janesville in October 1997 from Kokomo. He had been employed by General Motors for over 15 years and was a member of UAW Local 95 and Christ Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Winebrenner

He married Debra J. White on July 1, 1979, in Fort Wayne. She survives.

Also surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Michael Christian Winebrenner of Janesville and Jeremiah and Naomi Winebrenner of Madison, Wis.; his mother, Eunice Joyce Winebrenner of Auburn; a sister, Donna O'Dell of Auburn; and an uncle, Robert Winebrenner of Garrett.

His father preceded him in death.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at Christ Presbyterian Church with the Rev. David King officiating. Burial will be in Oak Hill Cemetery.

Calling will be held Monday from 4-7 p.m. at Schneider Apfel Schneider & Schneider Funeral Home.

Memorials are to Middle East Reformed Fellowship.

To read an online obituary and sign a registry, visit www.schneiderfuneraldirectors.com.

The EVENING STAR Auburn, Indiana
October 14 2007

## Sherry L. Marten

FREMONT — Sherry L. Marten, 53, of Fremont died Friday, Oct. 12, 2007, at her residence in Fremont.

Mrs. Marten worked as a waitress for the last five years at the Bull Pen Restaurant in Fremont. She formerly worked at the former Mid-Town Cafe in Fremont.

She enjoyed her family, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was a wonderful waitress, and was a very kind and friendly person. She was the type of person that you could share a joke or story with.

Her hobbies included collecting Beanie Babies and Elvis memorabilia. She was a member of the Fremont Moose Lodge.

Mrs. Marten

She was born on June 1, 1954, in Auburn to Lewis and Alice (Springer) McCartney, both are deceased. She married Doyle R. Marten on June 28, 1969, in Garrett, and he survives.

Also surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Rick and Chris Marten of Fremont and Kurt Marten, all of Fremont; four stepsons and a daughter-in-law, Richard and Lori Marten of Fremont, Danny Marten of Fremont, Doyle R. Marten Jr. of Michigan, and Cecil Martin of Angola; three stepdaughters and a son-in-law, David and Stephanie Jorn of Fremont, Tammy Snyder of Angola, and Sherry Lynn Fraley of Fremont; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Linda and Ed Ransbottom of Fremont, and Sharon McCartney of Arkanas; four brothers and three sisters-in-law, Mark and Cheryl McCartney of Avilla; Daniel and Tammy McCartney of Avilla, Randy and Toni Westbrook of Butler, and Andy McCartney of Arkansas; a daughter-in-law, Bobbie Marten of Fremont; 19 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchidren.

She also was preceded in death by a son, Timothy L. "Tim" Marten on March 3, 2000.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Beams Funeral Home in Fremont with Chaplain Ken Weaver officiating. Burial will be at Lakeside Cemetery in Fremont.

Calling will be from 4 to 8 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family or Parkview Hospice.

Condolences may be sent online to www.beamsfuneralhome.com.

## John Kochert

FORT WAYNE — John F. Kochert, 79, died Friday, Oct. 12, 2007, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Kochert was born in Fort Wayne and was a 1946 graduate of North Side High School. He was a construction superintendent with Sheets and Sons for 41 years.

He was a World War II veteran, serving in the U.S. Maritime Service and the U.S. Army.

He was a member of the Spencerville Order of the Eastern Star Chapter 356 and Concord Masonic Lodge 556. He was involved with Mizpah Shrine since 1974, a member of the Foot Patrol since 1991 and Scottish Rite and 32nd Degree since 1960.

He was a lifetime member of the Carpenters Union Local 232, Fort Wayne.

He enjoyed time with his family and loved Indiana University basketball and the Chicago Bears.

Surviving are his wife, Betty Kochert of Fort Wayne; two sons and daughters-in-law, John W. and Angelia Kochert of Fort Wayne and Tim B. and Rhonda Kochert of Windsor, Colo.; a daughter, Shirley McLaughlin of Omaha, Neb.; his grandchildren and their spouses, Kelly and Gary Rowland of Fort Wayne, Matt and Diana Kochert of Fort Wayne, Carrie and Ben Guffey of Windsor, Colo., Kristen Kochert and Keith Kochert of Windsor, Colo., Theresa Mechura of Elyria, Ohio, Katie Cinfuno of Owasso, Okla., Becky Allen of Papillion, Neb., and Chris McLaughlin of Fort Wayne.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Betty Preshard, and a grandson, Mike McLaughlin.

Services will be Tuesday at 10 a.m. at D.O. McComb & Sons Lakeside Park Funeral Home, 1140 Lake Ave., Fort Wayne. Burial will be in Lindenwood Cemetery.

Calling will be today from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. at the funeral home, with an Eastern Star service at 7:30 p.m. and a Masonic service following.

Memorials are to Shrine Children's Hospital.

## Ruth Tester

WATERLOO — Ruth A. Tester, 67, of Waterloo died Friday, Oct. 12, 2007, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Tester

Mrs. Tester was a homemaker. She also worked at Magnavox Corp. and in real estate.

She was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Auburn, the Kendallville Eagles and the New Haven Moose Lodge.

She was born March 2, 1940, in DeKalb County.

Surviving are three children, James Lynn Wolfe of Auburn, Jerry Dean Wolfe of South Milford, and Steve Allen Wolfe of Garrett; two brothers, James Goings of Brommell, Pa., and John Goings of New Haven; 10 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Raymond E.; a son, Larry Wolfe; a granddaughter, Nicole Gipple; and three brothers, Fred Goings, Donald Goings and Gerald Goings.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at McComb, Dilgard and Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. Burial will be in Roselawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Tuesday from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. and Wednesday from 10-11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Diabetes Association.

## Dorothy Shepherd

INVERNESS, Fla. — Dorothy Hall Shepherd, 93, of Inverness and formerly of Jay County and Little Turkey Lake at Stroh died Thursday, Oct. 11, 2007, at Citrus Memorial Hospital in Inverness.

Mrs. Shepherd had moved to Florida in 1995.

She was a member of Stroh Church of God.

Mrs. Shepherd was a licensed practical nurse and did private family nursing in Fort Wayne for 12 years. She then worked at Electric Motors in Garrett for 11 years and retired from there in 1976.

She was born June 25, 1914, in Boundary City in Jay County to Pearl and Grace (Lindley) Hall. She married Kenneth O. "Peanut" Shepherd on March 14, 1931. He died April 12, 1994.

Surviving are four daughter and three sons-in-law, Phyllis and Donald Amari and Peggy and Harold Lykins, all of Inverness, and Wanda Sires and Kaye and Loren Kelley, all of Hernando, Fla.; a daughter-in-law, Barbara Shepherd of Fort Wayne; a brother and sister-in-law, Donald and Frieda Hall of Madera, Calif.; 23 grandchildren; 40 great-grandchildren; and several great-great-grandchildren.

Services were Monday at the Portland Chapel of the Wlliamson and Spencer Funeral Home with Pastor Larry Eads officiating. Burial was in Gravel Hill Cemetery in Bryant.

Memorials are to the Church of God in Inverness, Fla.

Condolences may be sent online to www.willamson-spencer.com.

## Kyle Skelly

AUBURN — Kyle G. Skelly, 20, of Auburn died Saturday, Oct. 13, 2007, at his home.

Mr. Skelly

Mr. Skelly worked for IKG in Garrett.

He was born Feb. 18, 1987, in Fort Wayne. His father, Gregory A. Skelly, survives in Auburn. His mother and stepfather, Suzanne (Wiedman) and Barry W. Dibble, also survive in Auburn.

He married Erica M. Openlander on Oct. 20, 2006. She survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are two children, Makayla J. and Parker J. Skelly, both at home; three brothers, Jason Winget of Green Springs, Ohio, Joshua Winget of Bellevue, Ohio, and Adam Dibble of Auburn; two sisters, Nicole Cowan of Harlan and Madison Skelly of Auburn; a brother-in-law, Ryan Openlander of Waterloo; his grandparents, Margaret and Jon Thiel of Auburn, John and Lois Skelly of Fort Wayne, Frank and Marlyn Wiedman of Fort Wayne and Marylou Dibble of Auburn; and a great-grandfather, Earl Skelly of Waterloo.

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. in Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Burial will be in Cedar Creek Cemetery in Garrett.

Calling will be Thursday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. and Friday from 10-11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family, in care of Erica, Makayla and Parker Skelly.

## Irene Myers

CORUNNA — Irene S. Myers, 90, of Corunna died Monday, Oct. 15, 2007, at Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home of Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Myers was a homemaker and a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Auburn.

She was born Aug. 5, 1917, in Corunna to Emery and Mattie (Knox) Friend. They preceded her in death.

She married Kenneth F. Myers on June 23, 1940, in Auburn. He died June 4, 2003.

Surviving are two daughters and a son-in-law, Marilyn Myers of Corunna and Margery and Richard Norris of Auburn; two brothers, George Friend and Stanley Friend, both of Corunna; two stepgrandchildren; and five stepgreat-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a daughter, Linda Myers, and a brother, Jairus Friend.

A private family service will be at a later date with the Rev. Richard Pickard officiating. Burial will be in Cedar Creek Cemetery in rural Garrett.

Memorials are to Riley Hospital for Children, St. Mark's Lutheran Church or Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home of Fort Wayne.

Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, is handling arrangements.

## Carolyn Moon

KENDALLVILLE — Carolyn Marie Moon, 63, formerly of Kendallville, died Monday, Oct. 15, 2007, in Auburn.

Mrs. Moon

She enjoyed making crafts and crocheting as well as going camping with her family and friends.

Mrs. Moon was born in Kendallville on Sept. 4, 1944, to James J. and Katherine M. (Arnold) Bunn. They preceded her in death.

Surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Michelle and Paul Pine of Mooresville, N.C., and Starr and Martin Lechleidner of Waterloo; three sons and a daughter-in-law, Ronald Terrill Jr. of Goshen, Asa Flint and Deborah Parks of Fort Wayne and David Flint of Corunna; two stepdaughters and their husbands, Trina and Greg Amburgey of Kendallville and Melanie and Danny Perkins of Rome City; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Richard and Carolyn Bunn of Westler Lake, Wolcottville, and James and Karen Bradigan of Pleasant Lake; a sister and brother-in-law, Ronda and Rocky Barrand of Fremont; 15 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by her fiance, Daniel Harley Jr. in March 2007; a brother, Jerry L. Bunn in 1943; and her stepfather, Francis Bradigan.

Private family services will take place.

Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville is in charge of arrangements.

Send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

## Kathy Jo Wheeler

AUBURN — Kathy Jo Wheeler, 45, of Auburn died Sunday, Oct. 14, 2007, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Wheeler was a homemaker.

She was born Oct. 28, 1961, in Auburn to James Haverstock Sr. and Linda (Roose) Haverstock. Her father survives in Butler, and her mother preceded her in death.

She married Randy L. Wheeler on Jan. 29, 2001, in Auburn. He survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Chad Aron and Lyndsay Haverstock of Auburn; two daughters, Misty Nicole Haverstock and Stacie Lynne Haverstock, both of Auburn; two brothers and sisters-in-law, James and Jackie Haverstock of Butler and Rick and Tanya Haverstock of Hamilton; two sisters and brothers-in-law, Tammy Haverstock and Gary Kreicher of Edgerton, Ohio, and Robin and Jon Wallace of Butler; and four grandchildren, Gracie Leigh Payton, Ethan Chad Haverstock, Destinee K. Fike and Kaid McPheeters.

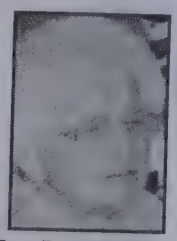
Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. Pastor Russ Howard will officiate. Burial will be in Butler Cemetery.

Calling will be Thursday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Lung Association.

## Edith Burnworth

COLUMBIA CITY — Edith M. Burnworth, 89, of Garrett, died Friday, Oct. 12, 2007, at 3:20 p.m. in Miller's Merry Manor nursing home at Garrett.


Mrs. Burnworth

A lifetime Whitley County resident, except for a short time in Garrett, she graduated from Columbia City High School with the Class of 1930. She retired from Dana Corp. in Churubusco.

She was born in Whitley County on Dec. 17, 1917, to Clarence and Effie B. (Appleton) Judd.

On Dec. 30, 1950, she married Lowell Burnworth in Columbia City.

Surviving are a stepdaughter, Celia A. Bush; a stepson, Jay C. Burnworth; a sister and brother-in-law, Wilma B. and Max Crabill of Garrett; and a brother and sister-in-law, Franklin L. and Ethel Judd of New York, N.Y.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, four sisters and eight brothers.

Services were today at 10 a.m. at DeMoney-Grimes Countryside Park Funeral Home, 600 Countryside Drive, Columbia City, with Pastor Curtiss Johnson officiating. Burial will be at Thorn Cemetery of Wolf Lake.

Memorials are to Heartland Hospice.

To send condolences, sign a guest register or light a memorial candle, visit www.demoneygrimes.com.

# Kendallville businessman, community leader William Soboslay, 74, dies

KENDALLVILLE — Former Kendallville businessman William J. "Bill" Soboslay Sr., 74, of Kendallville died at 11 p.m. Monday, Oct. 15, 2007, at Parkview Noble Hospital in Kendallville.

Mr. Soboslay

Mr. Soboslay was a lifetime area resident.

He was the owner of Kendallville Distributing Corp. and co-owner of The Toggery Shop in Kendallville.

Mr. Soboslay was a 1952 graduate of Kendallville High School and had attended Indiana University. He played minor league baseball and was drafted by the Chicago Cubs as a pitcher, and played for the California Angels minor league team.

He was a member of First Presbyterian Church in Kendallville where he served as an elder and deacon.

Mr. Soboslay was a past president of the Kendallville Rotary Club; past president of the Kendallville Chamber of Commerce; a former member of the Kendallville Elks Lodge, Masonic Lodge, and Shrine.

He was a Kendallville youth baseball coach for many years. He was also an avid golfer and held the course record on the Elks golf course.

He was born Feb. 24, 1933, in Kendallville to Anton and Florence (Nartker) Soboslay. He and his wife, Sallie (Gardner) Soboslay, were married for 54 years. She survives in Kendallville.

Also surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Rhae and Jim Dazey of Kendallville and Dee-Ann and Bill Rathge of Kendallville; four sons and two daughters-in-law, Doug and Laura Soboslay of Phoenix, Ariz., William Joe Soboslay Jr. of Phoenix, Chris Soboslay of Old Hickory, Tenn., and Jay David and Kay Soboslay of Kendallville; 20 grandchildren, Matt, Carrie, Carla, Carman, Nichole, Robbie, Joey, Megan, Erica, Elizabeth, Sasha, Serenity, Sonya, Chris Jr., Julie, Justin, Dustie, Maegan, Miranda and Jaeden; and 14 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Sally Greer.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, with the Rev. Stanley Kessler of the First Presbyterian Church officiating. Burial will be in Lake View Cemetery. Honorary pallbearers will be John Hutchins, Stan Emerick, Craig Fischer, Ed Perkins, Bob Czypryn, Darol Stroman and Chris Soboslay Jr.

Active pallbearers will be Bill Rathge, Jim Dazey, Robbie Rathge, Matt Dazey and Joey Soboslay.

Calling will be from 2-8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to First Presbyterian Church or Kendallville Public Library.

View a video tribute by Thursday or send condolences to the family at www.youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

## Robert Bishop

AUBURN — Robert D. Bishop, 83, of Auburn died Tuesday, Oct. 16, 2007, at his home.

Mr. Bishop

Mr. Bishop farmed all his life and also worked 34 years for Aro in Bryan, Ohio, retiring June 10, 1988. He was a member of the Indian Village Church of God.

He was born July 31, 1924, in Auburn to Roscoe J. and Grace L. (McCann) Bishop. They preceded her in death.

He married Barbara A. Miller on Feb. 14, 1948, in the Lutheran Church in Butler. She survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Pamela and William Hammontree of Wauseon, Ohio; five sons and four daughters-in-law, Daniel and Brenda Bishop of Auburn, Tom Bishop of Auburn, Bruce and Tresa Bishop of Corunna, Jeff and Brenda Bishop of Auburn and John and Genie Bishop of New Haven; a brother, Stanley Bishop of Auburn; 16 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by two sisters, Wilma Reade and Thelma Smith, and a daughter-in-law, Susie Bishop.

Services will be Friday at 2 p.m. at the Indian Village Church of God in Auburn. The Rev. Raymond Warner will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Thursday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, and Friday from 1-2 p.m. at the church.

Memorials are to the Indian Village Church of God, Parkview Hospice or a charity of the donor's choice.

## DeNese Landis

FREMONT — DeNese "Dizzy" Landis, 62, of Fremont and formerly of Angola, died Monday, Oct. 15, 2007, at her home.

Ms. Landis

Ms. Landis was a 24-year employee at New Horizons Bakery in Fremont. She had previously worked for 16 years at the former Simley Manufacturing Corp. in Angola.

She was a graduate of Butler High School. Her hobbies included being outdoors and planting flowers, sewing and doing crafts, baking and painting.

She was born on April 30, 1945, in Auburn to Albert Lynn and Audrey (Johnson) Brown, who both preceded her in death. She married Jack Landis on Sept. 21, 1974, in Pleasant Lake. He survives in Fremont.

She is also survived by a daughter, Linda Haifley of Fremont; a stepson and daughter-in-law, Jack Jr. and Shelley Landis of Edgerton, Ohio; two stepdaughters and sons-in-law, Tammy and Jeff Schaeffer of Angola, and Penny and Dave Tadsen of Angola; 11 grandchildren; one great-grandchild; six sisters, Kay Lemon of Camden, Mich., Bonnie Harbaugh of Vincennes, Julie Wynkoop of Grant, Mich., Ella Cliffton of Edgerton, and Dozzy Coburn and Joy Kirkpatrick of Butler.

She was also preceded in death by a granddaughter, Kylie Hall; a sister, Sue Kring; and a brother, Bill Brown.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Beams Funeral Home in Fremont, with the Revs. Jim Hulbert and Paul Patton officiating. Burial will be in Circle Hill Cemetery in Angola.

Calling will be from 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Cameron Hospice or to the donor's choice.

Condolences may be sent online to www.beamsfuneralhome.com.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** is *being reprinted to list additional surviving relatives.*

## Kathy Jo Wheeler

AUBURN — Kathy Jo Wheeler, 45, of Auburn died Sunday, Oct. 14, 2007, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Wheeler was a homemaker.

She was born Oct. 28, 1961, in Auburn to James Haverstock Sr. and Linda (Roose) Haverstock. Her father survives in Butler, and her mother preceded her in death.

She married Randy L. Wheeler on Jan. 29, 2001, in Auburn. He survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Chad Aron and Lyndsay Haverstock of Auburn; two daughters, Misty Nicole Haverstock and Stacie Lynne Haverstock, both of Auburn; two brothers and sisters-in-law, James and Jackie Haverstock of Butler and Rick and Tanya Haverstock of Hamilton; two sisters and brothers-in-law, Tammy Haverstock and Gary Kreicher of Edgerton, Ohio, and Robin and Jon Wallace of Butler; four grandchildren, Gracie Leigh Payton, Ethan Chad Haverstock, Destinee K. Fike and Kaid McPheeters; and brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Bill and Ruth Wheeler of Van Wert, Ohio, Rich and Gwen Wheeler of Latty, Ohio, Richard Wheeler of Muncie, Dave and Mary Wheeler of New Mexico, and Henry and Anita Wheeler, Laurie Wheeler, Lenny and Chico Wheeler and Anna Wheeler, all of St. Marys, Ohio,

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. Pastor Russ Howard will officiate. Burial will be in Butler Cemetery.

Calling will be Thursday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Lung Association.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** is *being reprinted to add names of surviving relatives.*

## DeNese Landis

FREMONT — DeNese "Dizzy" Landis, 62, of Fremont and formerly of Angola, died Monday, Oct. 15, 2007, at her home.

**Ms. Landis**

Ms. Landis was a 24-year employee at New Horizons Bakery in Fremont. She had previously worked for 16 years at the former Simley Manufacturing Corp. in Angola.

She was a graduate of Butler High School. Her hobbies included being outdoors and planting flowers, sewing and doing crafts, baking and painting.

She was born on April 30, 1945, in Auburn to Albert Lynn and Audrey (Johnson) Brown, who both preceded her in death. She marriedJack Landis on Sept. 21, 1974, in Pleasant Lake. He survives in Fremont.

She is also survived by a daughter, Linda Haifley of Fremont; a stepson and daughter-in-law, Jack Jr. and Shelley Landis of Edgerton, Ohio; two stepdaughters and sons-in-law, Tammy and Jeff Schaeffer of Angola, and Penny and Dave Tadsen of Angola; 11 grandchildren; one great-grandchild; six sisters, Kay Lemon of Camden, Mich., Bonnie Harbaugh of Vincennes, Julie Wynkoop of Grant, Mich., Ella Cliffton of Edgerton, and Dozzy Coburn and Joy Kirkpatrick of Butler; and two brothers, Lynn Brown of Churubusco and Rick Brown of Butler.

She was also preceded in death by a granddaughter, Kylie Hall; a sister, Sue Kring; and a brother, Bill Brown.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Beams Funeral Home in Fremont, with the Revs. Jim Hulbert and Paul Patton officiating. Burial will be in Circle Hill Cemetery in Angola.

Calling will be from 5 to 8 p.m. today at the funeral home.

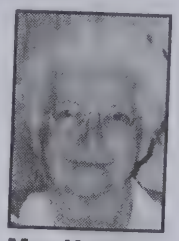
Memorials are to Cameron Hospice or to the donor's choice.

Condolences may be sent online to www.beamsfuneral-home.com.

## Velma Hunter

KENDALLVILLE — Velma Marie Hunter, 93, of Kendallville died Thursday, Oct. 18, 2007, at Parkview Noble Hospital in Kendallville.

Mrs. Hunter was employed with J.C. Penney in Kendallville for 20 years.


Mrs. Hunter

She was a 1931 graduate of Avilla High School and a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Avilla.

Mrs. Hunter enjoyed playing euchre and bingo and had previously loved to travel with her husband, Bill.

She was born in Avilla on Nov. 5, 1913, to Charles John and Matilda Edith Sarah (Housholder) Wolf. She married William T. Hunter on July 22, 1964, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Avilla. He preceded her death in 1989.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Nancy and Marlo "Bud" Munk of Albion; grandchildren, Shane and Rachel Munk of Greenwood and Randy and Dawn Brewer of Mishawaka; great-grandchildren, Spencer, Scout, Shaydon and Sydney Munk, Shauna Brewer, and Dameon and Ian Brewer; a daughter-in-law, Nancy Shultz of Mishawaka; a sister, Doris Johnson of Auburn; two sisters-in-law, Frances Wolf of Oldsmar, Fla., and Irene Forker of Albion; two brothers-in-law and their wives, Jack and Phyllis Hunter of Bluffton and Dale and Linda Shultz of Albion; and several nieces and nephews.

She was also preceded in death by a son, Thomas Edward Shultz in 1992.

Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery near Avilla with the Rev. Thomas A. Dunbar officiating.

There will be no calling.

Memorials are to Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville is in charge of arrangements.

Send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

## Robert Paulen

AUBURN — Robert W. Paulen, 86, died Thursday, Oct. 18, 2007, at Wesley HealthCare Center in Auburn.

Born in Auburn, he was employed with McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home and Dilgard & Cline Furniture and Funeral Home for more than 33 years.

He was a member of First United Methodist Church and a life member of Disabled American Veterans. He was a World War II U.S. Army veteran and a Purple Heart recipient.

Surviving are a sister, Helen Grogg of Auburn, and two grandsons, David Baughman of Kokomo and Charles Baughman of Fort Wayne.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Ruby, a daughter, Linda Baughman, and a son, Michael Paulen.

Services will be Monday at 11 a.m. in the First United Methodist Church, 1203 E. Seventh St., Auburn, with calling from 10-11 a.m. The Rev. Ted Jansen and the Rev. Dale Williams will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Additional calling will be Sunday from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. at McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn.

Memorials are to First United Methodist Church of Auburn or Alliance Industries, 901 E. Quincy St., Garrett.

## Helen Moore

ANGOLA — Helen L. Moore, 89, of Angola died Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2007, at home with family.

Mrs. Moore

Mrs. Moore was an avid gardener and loved animals, travel, music and dancing. She touched many through her music and passed on the gift of music to many family members whom she loved very much. She was the former choir director at Trinity Lutheran Church in Bryan, Ohio. She was a member of the North Scott Christian Church and the Suburban Golf League.

Mrs. Moore worked for the Ohio Gas Co. for a few years, then she went to work for the law office of Newcomer-Shaffer in Bryan. She also worked at the Chief Supermarket in Bryan.

She was born in Pittsburgh, Pa., on Nov. 30, 1917, to George P. and Susan (Lerch) Blodgett, who are deceased. She married Dorrance "Dorrey" Moore on Jan. 2, 1939, in Kansas City, Mo. He preceded her in death in 1986.

Survivors include a son and daughter-in-law, Bill G. and Sandy Moore of Portland, Ore.; three daughters and one son-in-law, JoAnne Pinkard of Salem, Ala., Kathy and Bob Rowan of Angola and Doreen DeGryse of Ossian; one brother, Bob Blodgett of Port Orange, Fla.; 19 grandchildren; 32 great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren.

Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Monday at Angola First Christian Church, with the Rev. James Hulbert officiating.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Hospice or the Alzheimer's Association.

Friends may sign the guest book at www.hejohsonfh.com.

## Margaret Cashdollar

MINSTER, Ohio — Margaret Cashdollar, 86, died Thursday, Oct. 18, 2007, at Heritage Manor Nursing Center in Minster, Ohio.

Mrs. Cashdollar was a homemaker all her married life. She was a member of Eden United Church of Christ in Muncie and recently a member of St. Paul United Church of Christ in New Bremen, Ohio.

She grew up in New Castle, lived in New Bremen, Ohio, and Muncie for many years, then moved back to New Bremen in 2005.

Born Nov. 28, 1920, in Eubank, Ky., she was the daughter of Dennie and Mary Eva Williams.

She was married to Robert C. Cashdollar for 52 years. He died in 1991.

Surviving are a daughter, Barbara Ziegenbusch of New Bremen; two sons and a daughter-in-law Robert A. and Karen Cashdollar of Auburn and Stephen Cashdollar of Muncie; two sisters and a brother-in-law, June and Philip Frantz of Vandalia, Ohio, and Katherine Tully of New Castle; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Two brothers preceded her in death.

Services were to be held today at Garden View Funeral Home in Muncie. Burial was to be at Garden of Memories Cemetery next to the funeral home.

Memorials are to Grand Lake Hospice, 1122 E. Spring St., St. Marys, OH 45885.

# Farmer was known for helping hand, kind heart and winning smile

BY VIV ROSSWURM
vivianr@kpcnews.net

WATERLOO — On the September day John Francis Miller died in a tragic farming accident, a beautiful sunset framed the copper cross on St. Michael's Church in rural Waterloo, where he had been a lifelong member. The skyline provided a perfect backdrop to the silhouette of John's beloved farm and homestead. The church bells chimed.

John Miller had been called home.

He had died doing what he loved to do — farming the land — said his cousins and neighbors, Bob and Judy Miller.

Even as the news of John's untimely death saddened them, the Millers felt a strange sense of calm.

"We could hear the church bells chiming in the distance," Judy Miller said. "And to the east of John's farm, we could see the farmhouse where he had spent his earlier years helping a sick uncle. He died in a back field, between the two farms where he spent most of his childhood days. What a fitting place for him to pass on."

John Miller was killed Sept. 28 at the age of 64 while attempting to repair a combine he was using to harvest beans on his farm in rural Waterloo.

As a father to his two daughters and son, John Miller was stern, but gentle, said daughter Anna Nixon of Auburn.

"My dad was kind, simple, hard-working and everyone's friend," said daughter Monica Theriac of Indianapolis.

Others agreed. About 1,000 people lined up to pay their respects at his funeral. John was buried in bib overalls, with his pipe and his favorite, well-worn cap. His five grandchildren placed seedling soybean plants next to the coffin.

Everyone from local farmers to the president of Beck Seed Corn in Atlanta, Ind., filled the funeral home to offer comfort and share stories of John Miller.

John thrived on his love of life, family and the land. His son, Andy, serves as director of the Indiana Department of Agriculture, and was a source of pride to John, as were his daughters, in-laws and grandchildren.

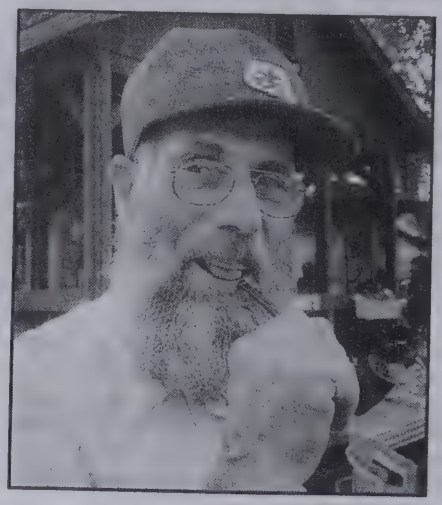


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**John Miller – shown with his trademark pipe and cap – died doing what he loved to do, farming the land he grew up on. Nearly 1,000 people lined up at his funeral to pay their respects to the humble, unassuming Waterloo farmer.**

John tried to attend as many of his grandchildren's sporting and school events as possible, even though they are scattered across the state. And he always had sweet treats for the kids.

"He was very healthy, which was amazing considering the amount of candy he ate and the fact that he had smoked a pipe," as long as they could remember, said Theriac.

John was born Feb. 2, 1943, in Garrett to Paul and Bernadine (Herber) Miller, but grew up in Waterloo. Double cousin Bob Miller — the boys' dads were brothers and their moms were sisters — grew up on an adjacent farm.

"John was a friend and helper," remembers Bob Miller.

John lived at Bob's house as a teen, helping out when Bob's dad — John's uncle — was recovering from surgery and was unable to do farm chores.

"I can remember (John) saying he had a real good class rank his senior year, but lost it because he stayed home to get the crops in instead of going to school," Bob Miller said. "Farming was in his blood at a young age."

John was a man of exemplary character, according to Judy and Bob Miller. So much so that the couple asked John to assume the role of guardianship of their two children in case anything should happen to them.

John Miller loved to socialize with his neighbors and often would stop by and talk for hours, Theriac said of her father.

The man with the distinctive beard, cap, pipe and winning smile was always a welcome sight at the Hamilton Fish and Game Club, where he liked to eat and socialize, and at St. Michael's Catholic Church, where he ushered, served on the parish council and took part in parish events.

In March, John Miller had a run-in with a sow and the sow won, according to Judy Miller.

"We referred to it as the 'pig wreck,'" she said.

John was left with a broken leg that was very slow to heal. During that time, he was forced to slow down and rely on others, said Nixon, which allowed his children to gain new insight into the man who was their father.

"The house was constantly filled with people," said Nixon. "Everyone wanted to help dad out, because he had helped so many others."

When she got married, Nixon chose "Daddy's Hands" by Holly Dunn during the traditional father/daughter dance. "It's a perfect description of our dad," she said, reciting a few lines of the chorus:

"Daddy's hands were soft and kind when I was cryin'

Daddy's hands, were hard as steel when I'd done wrong,

Daddy's hands, weren't always gentle, but I've come to understand,

There was always love in Daddy's hands ..."

## Earl DePew

GARRETT — Earl "Ernie" C. DePew, 87, of Garrett died at 5:12 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 20, 2007, at Miller's Merry Manor in Garrett.

He was a supervisor at Northern Indiana Fuel and Light Co. retiring in 1982 after 30 years of service.

Mr. DePew was a World War II Army veteran serving in the 223rd Quarter Master. He was past commander of the V.F.W., and was a member of the Garrett American Legion and the First Church of Christ in Garrett.

On Sept. 23, 1920, in Altona he was born to Clarence N. and Martha A. (Crummy) DePew. He married Mildred "Millie J. Smith on Jan. 21, 1947, in South Milford. She preceded him in death on Aug. 10, 2001.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Coleen and Mick Stewart, Kendallville; two sons and daughters-in-law, Brian and Betsy DePew, and Joseph and Linda DePew, all of Garrett; eight grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

In addition to his wife, a son, Kenneth Paul DePew, his parents, brothers Loren and Newton DePew, and sisters Nellie Weidler, Faye Malcolm, Ruby DePew and two infant sisters preceded him in death.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Thomas Funeral Home, Garrett, with the Rev. Richard Pickard officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery in Garrett.

Military graveside services will be by the Garrett American Legion and V.F.W.

Calling will be 2 to 8 p.m. Monday at Thomas Funeral Home, Garrett.

Memorials are to the Garrett High School athletic department.

Condolences may be sent on line to www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

## Edward Montel

GARRETT — Edward Frank Montel, 86, of Garrett died Sunday, Oct. 21, 2007, at his son's home in Mishawaka.

Mr. Montel was a self-employed carpenter. He also worked for Graber Homes for 20 years, retiring in 1980. He was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II, serving in the Seabees.

Mr. Montel was a member of Calvary Chapel Worship Center of Auburn and a former member of the Silver Lake Church of the Brethren.

He was a member of the Garrett Eagles Aerie 1357, Garrett Post 178 of the American Legion, and the Garrett post of Veterans of Foreign Wars.

He was born March 10, 1921 in Kosciusko County to Frank and Mary (Burger) Montel.

On Jan. 9, 1965, he married Judy Clark. She died June 13, 1997.

Surviving are three sons, Johnathan Montel of Mishawaka, Mark Montel of Alexandria, Va., and Joe Montel of Edwardsburg, Mich.; two daughters, Susan K. Bradford of Mishawaka and Diana Pearson of Edwardsburg, Mich.; two brothers, Ernest Montel of Vandalia, Ohio and Frank Montel Jr. of LaOtto; three sisters, Beulah Morphew of Terre Haute, Elizabeth Morphew of Kokomo and Ruth Creighton of Alden, N.Y.; seven grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

He also was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, Walter Montel; a sister, Marjorie Morgan; and a great-grandson, Jared Barnhart.

Services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Rex Charles officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery of Garrett.

Calling will be Tuesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Center for Hospice and Palliative Care, 111 Sunnybrook Court, South Bend, IN 46637-3437.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** *is being reprinted with additional information.*

## Earl DePew

GARRETT — Earl "Ernie" C. DePew, 87, of Garrett died Saturday, Oct. 20, 2007, at 5:12 a.m. at Miller's Merry Manor nursing home in Garrett.

He was a supervisor at Northern Indiana Fuel and Light Co., retiring in 1982 after 30 years of service.

Mr. DePew was a World War II Army veteran, serving in the 223rd Quarter Master. He was past commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and was a member of the Garrett post of the American Legion and the First Church of Christ in Garrett.

On Sept. 23, 1920, he was born in Altona to Clarence N. and Martha A. (Crummy) DePew.

He married Mildred "Millie" J. Smith on Jan. 21, 1947, in South Milford. She preceded him in death on Aug. 10, 2001.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Coleen and Mick Steward of Kendallville; two sons and daughters-in-law, Brian and Betsy DePew and Joseph and Linda DePew, all of Garrett; eight grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

In addition to his wife, he was preceded in death by a son, Kenneth Paul DePew; his parents; brothers Loren and Newton DePew' and sisters Nellie Weidler, Faye Malcolm, Ruby DePew and Grace Schworm; and two infant sisters.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, with the Rev. Richard Pickard officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery of Garrett, with military graveside services by the Garrett American Legion and VFW.

Calling will be today from 2-8 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home of Garrett.

Memorials are to the Garrett High School athletic department.

To send condolences or sign the online register book, visit www.thomasfuneral-home.org.

## Ryan Koble

FORT WAYNE — Ryan R. Koble, 27, of Fort Wayne died Saturday, Oct. 20, 2007, at his home.

He was employed with Wal-Mart in Auburn before being employed with Prestige Delivery Systems as an independent contractor for the last three years.

Born in Fort Wayne, he was the son of Paul and Marianne Koble. They survive in Auburn.

Also surviving are a daughter, Jenine Koble, at home; his fiancee, Jennifer Barbetta of Fort Wayne; two brothers, Chris and Rick Koble, both of Auburn; a grandmother, Elizabeth Koble of Fort Wayne; a grandfather, Donald Woodring of New Haven; and many uncles, aunts, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by a grandmother, Anna Woodring; a grandfather, Paul E. Koble; and an uncle, Donnie Woodring.

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. at E. Harper & Son Funeral Home, 740 S.R. 930 East, New Haven. Burial will be in Highland Park Cemetery of Fort Wayne.

Calling will be Thursday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. and Friday from 10-11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Jenine's education fund.

The EVENING STAR
October 24 2007 Auburn, Indiana

## Florence Husted

ANGOLA — Florence R. "Flo" Husted, 96, of Angola, formerly of Bryan, Ohio, died Thursday, Sept. 20, 2007, in Angola.

Mrs. Husted taught home economics for 30 years in the Stryker and Fairview school districts in Ohio.

She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She graduated from Purdue University in 1931, and was a member of the Purdue Alumni Association. She enjoyed traveling the world with her husband, Claude. She and her husband joined the Peace Corps and went on assignment to Western Samoa in the South Pacific. She had a close relationship with a local Samoan girl, who, when she married, named her first two children Florence and Claude.

She was born March 18, 1911, in Waterloo to Henry and Addie (Jackman) Renner, who both preceded her in death. She married Claude Husted on Sept. 5, 1933. He died April 17, 2005.

She is survived by a son and daughter-in-law, Walter Wesley and JoAnn Husted of Mount Vernon, Ohio; a daughter and son-in-law, Claudette and Frank Herbert of Houston; a sister, Sarah Renner Hughes of Dallas; three grandchildren, Robert, John and Vincent; three step-granddaughters, Lori, Jennifer and Pam; seven great-grandchildren, Joseph, Jaren, Vincent, Trenton, Daniel, Katie and Catherine; and two step-great-grandchildren, Kayla and Kyle.

She was also preceded in death by five brothers and sisters, Gertrude Renner Shearer, Alice Latier, Helen Renner Hughes, Howard Renner and Walter Renner.

Memorial services will be Sunday at Cameron Woods in Angola, with the Rev. Wayne Berkesch officiating. Burial will be in Hamilton Cemetery in Hamilton.

Memorials are to the Hamilton Volunteer Fire Department.

Arrangements are by Weicht Funeral Home in Angola.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** *is being reprinted to add a time for the memorial service.*

## Florence Husted

ANGOLA — Florence R. "Flo" Husted, 96, of Angola, formerly of Bryan, Ohio, died Thursday, Sept. 20, 2007, in Angola.

Mrs. Husted taught home economics for 30 years in the Stryker and Fairview school districts in Ohio.

She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She graduated from Purdue University in 1931, and was a member of the Purdue Alumni Association. She enjoyed traveling the world with her husband, Claude. She and her husband joined the Peace Corps and went on assignment to Western Samoa in the South Pacific. She had a close relationship with a local Samoan girl, who, when she married, named her first two children Florence and Claude.

She was born March 18, 1911, in Waterloo to Henry and Addie (Jackman) Renner, who both preceded her in death. She married Claude Husted on Sept. 5, 1933. He died April 17, 2005.

She is survived by a son and daughter-in-law, Walter Wesley and JoAnn Husted of Mount Vernon, Ohio; a daughter and son-in-law, Claudette and Frank Herbert of Houston; a sister, Sarah Renner Hughes of Dallas; three grandchildren, Robert, John and Vincent; three step-granddaughters, Lori, Jennifer and Pam; seven great-grandchildren, Joseph, Jaren, Vincent, Trenton, Daniel, Katie and Catherine; and two step-great-grandchildren, Kayla and Kyle.

She was also preceded in death by five brothers and sisters, Gertrude Renner Shearer, Alice Latier, Helen Renner Hughes, Howard Renner and Walter Renner.

Memorial services will be Sunday at 2 p.m. at Cameron Woods in Angola, with the Rev. Wayne Berkesch officiating. Burial will be in Hamilton Cemetery in Hamilton.

Memorials are to the Hamilton Volunteer Fire Department.

Arrangements are by Weicht Funeral Home in Angola.

## Tony Keeler

ST. JOE — Tony L. Keeler, 52, of St. Joe died Monday, Oct. 22, 2007, at his home in St. Joe.

Mr. Keeler worked in the maintenance department at Vulcraft in St. Joe. He also owned and operated Jiggs Motor Service in St. Joe.

He was born July 30, 1955, in Auburn to H. Ralph and Olevia L. (Metzger) Keeler. They preceded him in death.

Surviving are a sister and brother-in-law, Randa S. and Lloyd Germano of Fort Wayne; a brother, Lonny L. Keeler of Fort Wayne; a nephew, Jeremy Keeler; two nieces and a spouse, Ashley Keeler and Simone and Jim Asher; and a great-nephew, Gannon Asher.

Graveside services will be Sunday at 2 p.m. in Riverside Cemetery at St. Joe, with evangelist Harvey Hacker officiating.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Heart Association or DeKalb County Cancer Society.

## Opal Myers

AUBURN — Opal M. Myers, 86, of Auburn died Wednesday, Oct. 24, 2007, at her home in Auburn with her family by her side.

Mrs. Myers was employed as a clerk for the Newberry's store in Auburn for more than 25 years. She was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary Post 97 in Auburn, and was baptized at the Church of Christ in Auburn.

She was born Oct. 17, 1921, in DeKalb County to Lawrence and Faye (Ordway) Green. They preceded her in death.

She married Max R. Myers in Steuben County on Sept. 23, 1937. He died July 27, 2001.

Surviving are two daughters and a son-in-law, Sue and Herb Schwartz of Auburn and Pam Gillespie of Auburn; four grandchildren, Andy Schwartz, Tammy Freeman, Tiffany Wells and Elizabeth Gillespie; eight great-grandchildren; one brother and sister-in-law, Paul and Darlene Green of Columbia, Ohio; and one sister and brother-in-law, Maxine and Don Heers of Marcellus, Mich.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, Lawrence Green Jr. and Robert Green; and two sisters, Lois Reddy and Helen Wills.

Services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. Ron Stambaugh officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery at Auburn.

Calling will be Friday from 5-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Lung Association.

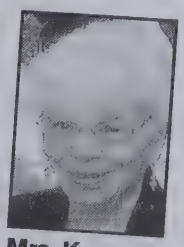
## Donna June Knox

AUBURN — Donna June Knox, 88, of Auburn and formerly of Butler died Wednesday, Oct. 24, 2007, in Auburn.

Mrs. Knox worked at Marshall Clothing and was a homemaker. She was a graduate of International Business College.

She was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Auburn, a former member of Jerusalem United Methodist Church and a member of the Franklin Friends.

She was born July 4, 1919, in Franklin Township to John and Audra E. (Houlton) Platt. They preceded her in death.


Mrs. Knox

She married Florin H. Knox on March 19, 1941, at her parents' home. He died Sept. 24, 2006.

Surviving are two daughters and a son-in-law, Patrula and Dennis Newhard of Auburn and Julie Bunch and Paul Headley of Hamilton; three grandchildren, Marni Boyd and her husband, and Bil, of Wake Forest, N.C., Tyler Bunch of Naples, Fla., and Travis Bunch of Merrillville; two stepgrandchildren, Todd Newhard of Fort Pierce, Fla., and Tami Ruble and her husband, Trent, of Fort Wayne; two stepgreat-grandchildren, Taylor and Aaron Ruble of Fort Wayne; and three sisters-in-law and a brother-in-law, Onalee and Raymond Moughler of Waterloo and Gailanna Knox and Barb Knox, both of Auburn.

Services will be Monday at 11 a.m. at H.E. Johnson & Son Funeral Home in Butler, with Pastor Ted Jansen officiating. Burial will be in Eddy Cemetery at Hamilton.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Auburn First United Methodist Church, the American Cancer Society or DeKalb Hospice.

Condolences may be left and a video tribute may be viewed at www.hejohnsonfh.com.

The EVENING STAR
October 27 2007 Auburn, Indiana

# Frank Sechler, owner of Sechler Pickles, dies

ST. JOE — Frank Sechler, 83, died Thursday, Oct. 25, 2007, at his home in St. Joe.

Mr. Sechler was the owner and operator of Sechler Pickles in St. Joe. He was a Merchant Marines veteran, serving during World War II, a former Boy Scout Leader, a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church and a past president of the St. Joe Lions Club. He donated land for the Riverdale School and Riverside Cemetery and also involved with the St. Joe River Greenway project.

**Mr. Sechler**

He was born Oct. 20, 1924, in St. Joe to Ralph and Anne (Martindale) Sechler. They preceded him in death.

He married Frances Reidenbach on Dec. 3, 1976, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in St. Joe. She survives in St. Joe.

Also surviving are three sons and daughter-in-law, Craig Sechler of Fort Wayne, David Sechler of St. Joe and Michael and Sue McMillen of Minneapolis, Minn.; two daughters and two sons-in-law Karen and Randy Linn of St. Joe and Diana McMillen and Mike Burns of Des Moines, Iowa; his grandchildren, Lila and Jocelyn Sechler, Evan and Abigail Sechler, Colton Linn, Tom McMillen and his wife, Keira, Alec and Chelsea Burns, and a great-granddaughter, Alexa Fae McMillen.

He was preceded in death by a son, Tony Sechler, on Nov. 14, 1988, and a sister, Louise Church on July 15, 1990.

Services will be Monday at 11 a.m. at the Spencerville Community Club, 5629 C.R. 68, with Merle Holden officiating. Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery in St. Joe.

Calling will be Sunday from noon to 3 p.m. and 5 to 8 p.m. and Monday from 10-11 a.m. at the Community Club.

Memorials are to St. Mark's Lutheran Church and the St. Joe River Greenway.

Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home of Spencerville is handling arrangements.

## Betty Smart

AUBURN — Betty Louise Smart, 62, of Auburn, died Saturday, Oct. 27, 2007, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Smart was employed with P.I.C. in Albion for more than 20 years and was a member of Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses. She loved to play cards and had a great sense of humor.

Mrs. Smart

She was born in Auburn on Nov. 8, 1944, to Orville Wright and Hazel Louise (Garrison) Treesh.

She married Vernon Harvey Smart on June 15, 1963, in Kendallville. He preceded her death on Sept. 5, 1996.

Surviving are a sister and brother-in-law, Nancy and Jess Bonecutter of Auburn; her nephews and their spouses, Guy and Laura Shatto of Waterloo, John Shatto of Waterloo, James and Dawn Shatto of Auburn, Chad Shatto of Chandler, Ariz., Randy and Sheila Gibson of Kendallville, Mark and Linda Gibson of Shipshewana, Don and Sherry Weimer of Fort Wayne, Jared and Jennifer Smart of Hudson and Thaddeus and Cindy Smart of Cromwell; and her nieces and their spouses, Cindy and Darel Fike of Pretty Lake, Tracy and Dean Croucher of North Webster and Dawn McDonald of Pretty Lake.

Services will be Wednesday at 1 p.m. at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville. Elder Don Weimer Jr. will officiate. Burial will be at Sedan Cemetery in rural Waterloo.

Calling will be Tuesday from 3-7 p.m. at the funeral home

Memorials are to the American Diabetes Association

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com

## Phyllis Payton

AUBURN — Phyllis L. Payton, 73, of Auburn died Sunday, Oct. 28, 2007, at Wesley HealthCare in Auburn.

Mrs. Payton was a homemaker. She was a member of the Spinning Spools Quilt Guild of Auburn and the Chatter Bells Home Extension Club of Auburn.

She was born Jan. 24, 1934, in Corunna to Garl B. and Hazel T. (Childs) Hissong. They preceded her in death.

She married Claude "Dink" Payton in Corunna on Feb. 21, 1953, and he survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are four sons and daughters-in-law, Keith A. and Ruby Payton of Fort Wayne, William G. and Kelly Payton of Brigham City, Utah, Paul B. and Karla Payton of Purdy, Mo., and Patrick S. and JoDe Payton of Auburn; three grandchildren, Kelley Payton, Vaughn Payton and Bailey Payton; four stepgrandchildren, Helen, Jenny, Margaret and Victoria; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Robert and Lois Hissong of Corunna and Steven and Marty Hissong of Auburn; and a sister-in-law, Betty Hissong of Kendallville.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Richard Hissong.

Services will be Thursday at 11 a.m. at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with Gary Dilley officiating. Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery in rural Corunna.

Calling will be Wednesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society.

## Esther Miller

AUBURN — Esther Ilene Miller, 85, died Monday, Oct. 29, 2007, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Miller was a homemaker and a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn.

She was born Jan. 8, 1922, in Auburn to Elmer and Hilda (Metcalf) Deetz. They preceded her in death.

She married Leonard Miller on Aug. 24, 1944, in Auburn. He died Dec. 22, 2003.

Surviving are two daughters, Eileen LaRue and Valerie Gramling, both of Auburn; a brother, Walter Deetz of Sebring, Fla.; four grandchildren, Joel Gramling of Pleasant Lake, Tim LaRue of Auburn, Jeanine Kleber of Auburn and Chad Gramling of Auburn; and two great-grandchildren, Daphne Gramling and William Kleber.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, George Deetz and Hugh Deetz, and two sisters, Phyllis Huckleberry and Ruth Ann Knott.

Services will be Friday at 2 p.m. in Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 500 E. Seventh St., Auburn. Burial will be in Catholic Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Thursday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn.

Memorials are to St. Martin's charities of Garrett or to Masses at the church.

## Martha Horn

FORT WAYNE — Martha L. Horn, 84, died Sunday, Oct. 28, 2007, at Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla.

Mrs. Horn

Mrs. Horn was a homemaker and had worked outside the home for many years.

Mrs. Horn was a native of Garrett.

She will be remembered as a loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

Surviving are a daughter, Christina Crowell of Fort Wayne; two grandchildren, Stacey Buchs and Douglas McKinley, both of Fort Wayne; five great-grandchildren; and a sister, Margaret Persons of North Carolina.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Richard J. Horn; three brothers; and three sisters.

Service will be at 11 a.m. Friday at D.O. McComb & Sons Pine Valley Park Funeral Home, 1320 E. Dupont Road, with the Rev. Philip Schamehorn officiating. Burial will be in Concordia Cemetery Gardens.

Calling will be from 2 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday and one hour prior to services Friday.

Memorials are to Provena Sacred Heart Home.

## Kent Murphy

FAIRBORN, Ohio — U.S Air Force Lt. Col. (Ret.) Kent J. Murphy, 65, of Fairborn, Ohio, died Sunday, Oct. 28, 2007, at his residence.

He served his country in the U.S. Air Force, retiring with the rank of lieutenant colonel, and then was employed as a program manager with Department of Defense contractors at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

He attended the First Presbyterian Church of Fairborn. He was a 25-year member of the Fairborn Lions Club and a member of the Free and Accepted Masons. He was very active with the Fairborn Parks Department FROGS program and recently was awarded the second annual Michael Horton Volunteer of the Year Award.

He was born Aug. 27, 1942, in Peru, Ind., to Pat and Betty (Moore) Murphy. They preceded him in death. He also was preceded in death by his stepfather, the Rev. Joe James.

Surviving are his wife of 41 years, Carol; two daughters and sons-in-law, Carrie and Wesley Matsel of Auburn and Cassandra and Matthew Locke of Dayton, Ohio; a son, Kevin Murphy of Findlay, Ohio; four grandchildren, Emily Jackson, Alex Matsel, Callie Matsel and Danielle Matsel; a sister, Sharon Seymour of Tallahassee, Fla.; numerous nieces, nephews and other extended family members; and many friends.

Services will be Thursday at 11 a.m. in Belton-Stroup Funeral Home, 422 E. Dayton-Yellow Springs Road, Fairborn. The Rev. Thomas L. Harmon will officiate.

Calling will be Wednesday from 5-8 p.m. at Belton-Stroup Funeral Home.

Additional calling will be Friday from 10-11 a.m. at McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn.

Burial will full military honors will follow in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Memorials are to the Fairborn Lions Club, P.O. Box 87, Fairborn, OH 45324, or FROGS, c/o Fairborn Parks Foundation, P.O. Box 3255, Fairborn, OH 45324.

## G. Leo Saffen

PLEASANT LAKE — G. Leo Saffen, 77, of Pleasant Lake died Monday, Oct. 29, 2007, at Cameron Memorial Community Hospital, Angola.

He worked for more than 30 years at Cooper Tire in Auburn, retiring in 1985. He also served in the U.S. Marine Corps.

He was born in Wisconsin on Jan. 24, 1930, to Earle and Opal Saffen, who both preceded them in death. He married Mary Jean Shire on May 20, 1950. She survives.

He is also survived by two sons and daughters-in-law, Steve and Sandra Saffen of Fort Wayne, and Mike and Karen Saffen of Warsaw; two stepgrandchildren; three stepgreat-granddaughters; and two stepgreat-grandsons.

There will be no services or calling.

Johnson Funeral Home in Hudson is handling arrangements.

Condolences may be sent to johnson@bnin.net.

The EVENING STAR
October 30 2007 Auburn, Indiana

# Frank Sechler's legacy will live on in community

**BY KATHRYN BASSETT and JEFF JONES**
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jeffj@kpcnews.net

ST. JOE — Friends of Franklyn "Frank" Sechler say the businessman and community leader could have done anything, any place, but chose to devote his life to DeKalb County.

"That speaks worlds," said Sechler's colleague, Phil Carpenter.

**Mr. Sechler**

Frank Sechler, the "son" in Ralph Sechler & Son died Thursday. He spent his entire life in the family pickle business, which was started by his father, Ralph, in 1921.

When Ralph Sechler was ordered by doctors to rest from an ulcer in the 1940s, Frank Sechler oversaw the business while he was still in high school. Starting out as "St. Joe Valley Brands," the company was renamed "Ralph Sechler & Son" in 1948, when Frank Sechler finished college and committed to the family business. Frank Sechler took over management of the business after his father died.

Under Frank Sechler's leadership, the pickle factory added a showroom in 1965, from which Sechler's Pickles products are available and groups are given tours of the factory. Frank Sechler's wife, Fran, took over responsibility for the showroom and mail-order business in the late 1970s.

A third generation of Sechlers, Frank Sechler's son, David, and daughter, Karen, assumed leadership roles in 1990 when Frank Sechler took partial retirement.

Longtime friend Merle Holden described Mr. Sechler as an astute businessman. He said Mr. Sechler grew and expanded the pickle business in a conservative manner.

"It's still family-owned to this day, and he gradually expanded it, but never over-expanded," Holden said.

Holden knew Mr. Sechler for more than 50 years. The two attended St.

## SECHLER: Surprise gathering at church marked his 83rd birthday

FROM PAGE A1

Mark Lutheran Church in St. Joe and for the past two years, Holden had been Mr. Sechler's minister at the church.

"He was extremely generous," Holden said, pointing to Mr. Sechler's donations of land for the Riverside Cemetery, the St. Joseph River Greenway project, the Riverdale School and the second water tower in St. Joe.

"What he has done and given will live on and will contribute to the education and well-being of the community for years to come," said Carpenter, who was involved in the greenway project with Mr. Sechler.

*"I've often accused him of having 50 percent or more pickle juice in him.I wonder if we scratched him if we'd get pickle juice or blood?"*

**Art Parry**
Friend of the late
Frank Sechler

Mr. Sechler was recognized with The Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence for his efforts with the greenway.

In a news release for the award, Mr. Sechler was cited as being "instrumental in the planning, development and funding of the greenway and also donated 13.4 acres of prime farmland and woodland next to the greenway."

In addition, Mr. Sechler was a founding member and past president of the Eastside Area Community Foundation, which presents scholarships to graduating seniors at Eastside High School each year and also supports community activities and programs in eastern DeKalb County.

Holden said Mr. Sechler was a pillar in the church.

"He was devoted to his church. He was there literally every Sunday," Holden said.

When the church began offering a Tuesday evening service, Mr. Sechler would attend faithfully, despite having heard the same sermon on Sunday, Holden said.

"He said he needed to support me," Holden added.

Mr. Sechler celebrated his 83rd birthday on Oct. 20 and his family planned a surprise gathering at the church last Sunday, Oct. 21.

"We all sang 'Happy Birthday' before the start of the service," Holden said. "It was just a tremendous surprise."

Holden said Mr. Sechler was a member of the school board when the Butler and Riverdale districts consolidated to form DeKalb Eastern schools.

"There was never a rougher period in time to be on the school board," Holden said. "He had a lot of difficult decisions, but he held up well."

Mr. Sechler and Holden shared a love of the Detroit Tigers baseball team.

Con't on pg 380

Cont from 379

"He was a rabid fan and so am I. Every Sunday and Tuesday during baseball season, we'd talk about the Tigers. ... He was a devoted fan and I'll miss discussing (the team's play). I'm really going to miss it," Holden said.

In an August 1996 salute in recognition of the 75th anniversary of Sechler's Pickles, several friends shared their friendships with Mr. Sechler as well as examples of his caring for the community.

Longtime friend Art Parry, who met Mr. Sechler while the two were attending DePauw University in Greencastle, called Mr. Sechler "A real down-to-earth straight-shooter. He's a hard-worker, he's industrious, he has a great sense of humor and he's a great kidder. One of his great loves was to get me started on some political tidbit. He's just a great guy.

"I've often accused him of having 50 percent or more pickle juice in him. I wonder if we scratched him if we'd get pickle juice or blood?"

Another friend, Ed Wade, said this about Mr. Sechler in that 1996 article: "He's easy to meet and he has a tremendous amount of interest in people. He's rare for these days in that he's extremely honest and fair in everything he does."

In the article, some of his longtime friends and co-workers stated Mr. Sechler was always there to lend assistance.

Ruth Collins, who served as office manager at Sechler's Pickles for more than 20 years, said Mr. Sechler always tried to hire students who were going on to college so he could help with their education.

"He always put his employees first, and he always looked out for their well-being," she said. "Frank was an excellent employer, as was his father. You could tell that by the length of time people worked for them."

Paul Moore described Mr. Sechler as a "really nice guy. If anybody needed help, he'd be the first one there to help."

Mr. Sechler and the late Bud Shockley became friends and were members of the St. Joe-Spencerville Lions Club together. While it wasn't widely known, Shockley said Mr. Sechler often sent money to college students who had worked at Sechler's Pickles.

Holden officiated at Mr. Sechler's funeral Monday. He noted the service took place at the Spencerville Community Club in order to accommodate the large number of people who were expected to attend. Holden said it is fitting that a small, local funeral home was in charge of Mr. Sechler's funeral arrangements and again shows his commitment to the community.

"That's just what Franklyn would want," he said.

## Violet Scribner

CHURUBUSCO — Violet "Vi" Scribner, 90, of Fort Wayne and formerly of Churubusco died Friday, Oct. 26, 2007, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Scribner

Mrs. Scribner had lived at Canterbury Health Care since January 2004.

She had retired in 1980 after 20 years as a special reading teacher for the Garrett-Keyser-Butler School Corp.

Mrs. Scribner had a Bachelor of Science degree from Manchester College and a master's degree from Ball State University.

She was a member of Grace Lutheran Church in Columbia City.

She was born May 20, 1917, in Egeland, N.D., to Berdon and Inga (Pederson) Grande. She married Cecil W. Scribner on June 5, 1938, in Devil's Lake, N.D. He died Aug. 29, 2004.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Shirley and John Souder of Auburn; a brother and sister-in-law, Arthur and Marie Grande of Oxnard, Calif.; and five grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by two brothers, Wayne and Gordon Grande, and two sisters, Pauline Coe and Ethel Erickson.

Memorial services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Sheets & Childs Funeral Home with the Rev. Alfred LePage officiating. Burial will be in Eel River Cemetery.

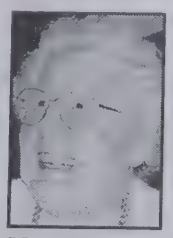
Calling will be one hour prior to services.

Memorials are to the Manchester College Foundation.

Condolences may be sent online to www.sheetsandchildsfuneralhome.net.

## Lydia Hipskind

AUBURN — Lydia Hipskind, 93, of Auburn died Monday, Oct. 29, 2007, at her home.


Mrs. Hipskind

Born in Auburn, she served as a church secretary for the First United Methodist Church of Auburn for 18 years, retiring in 1973.

She graduated from McIntosh High School of Auburn in 1933 and was a member of the First United Methodist Church and its WSCS and Nellie Weaver Circle.

She married Arthur M. Hipskind on July 18, 1940, in North Webster. He preceded her in death.

Surviving are five nephews, Rex Renz of Paris, Tenn., Shelton Renz of Alabama, George Ells of Columbus, Ohio, John Ells of Garrett and Hal Ells of Auburn, and two nieces, Wealthea Martin of Georgia and Nancy Ells of Columbus, Ohio.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Elmer G. and Goldie B. (Warfield) Renz; two brothers, L. Jay Renz and Rex Renz; and two sisters, Geneva Semenoff and Ruth Ells, in addition to her husband.

Services will be Friday at 2 p.m. at McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, The Rev. Ted Jansen will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Friday from noon to 2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the First United Methodist Church or the DeKalb Heart Association.

## Jackie Hayward

BROOMFIELD, Colo. — Jackie Alan Hayward, 47, of Broomfield, Colo., and formerly of Hudson, died Tuesday, Oct. 30, 2007, at his Colorado home from complications of melanoma, after a long, courageous battle.

Mr. Hayward

Mr. Hayward was a 1978 graduate of DeKalb High School. He enjoyed doing home improvements, cooking, gardening, family and friends and the Colorado mountains, where he lived most of his adult life. Friends and family will remember him for his sense of humor and fun-loving attitude.

He was born Dec. 29, 1959, in LaGrange to Billy Joe and Wilma Jean Hayward of Hudson. They survive.

Also surviving are a daughter, Emilee, of Thorton, Colo.; his partner, Ralph Carpio of Broomfield; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Brenda Hayward of Van Wert, Ohio, and Marla and Tracy Kretz of Waterloo; two nephews, Jeremy Castner and John Hayward, both of Hudson; two nieces, Brandy (Kretz) Miller of Angola and Nikki Kretz of Auburn; and many aunts, uncles, cousins and his extended Carpio family.

He was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Ray and Glenna Hayward, and his maternal grandparents, Dan and Sadie Everage.

Services will be Friday at 7 p.m. in Rundus Funeral Home, 1998 W. 10th Ave., Broomfield, Colo. A memorial service will take place locally at a later date.

Condolences may be sent to johnson@bnin.net.

## Rose Quinones

AUBURN — Rose M. Quinones, 46, of Auburn died Oct. 31, 2007, at her home with her family and friends by her side.

Mrs. Quinones worked as a machine operator for Federal Mogul in Avilla for the past 11 years. She was a graduate of Paul Harding High School and loved animals.

She was born Feb. 3, 1961, in Huntington. Her father, Charles F. Speith, preceded her in death, and her mother, Waltraut P. (Neubeurt) Bowers, survives in Churubusco.

On June 4, 2007, she married Danny "Taco" Quinones, who had been her companion for 18 years. He survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are two stepsons and a spouse, Daniel A. and Erica Quinones of Fort Wayne and Dustin K. Gourley of Fort Wayne; one stepdaughter and her husband, Brittany and Sean Gehring of Bluffton; a sister, Liane L. Speith of Fort Wayne; a brother, Charles F. Speith Jr. of Fort Wayne; her mother-in-law, Nan Quinones of Bluffton; and a stepgrandson, Kaleb Quinones.

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. in Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Al Black and Darlene Bergdoll officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery in rural Garrett.

Calling will be today from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Cancer Society.

## Mary Mathes

SPENCERVILLE — Mary Arlene Mathes, 85, died Wednesday, Oct. 31, 2007, at the Shepherd of the Hill in Kendallville.

Mrs. Mathes attended school in St. Joe and was very active in the Spencerville Community Club for many years. She was owner of the Turf Shop and was a member of the Coburn Corners Church of Christ in rural St. Joe.

She was born July 17, 1922, the daughter of Clark and Daisy (Dean) Roberts, at Newville.

She married Virgil O. Mathes. He died June 13, 1987.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Lola and Paul Nofzinger of Colorado Springs, Colo., a son, Kenneth of Lilburn, Ga., five grandchildren; and six great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by an infant daughter, two brothers and one sister.

There will be no calling. A memorial service will be scheduled at a later date.

Memorial contributions are the Spencerville Community Club.

Smith & Brown Funeral Home of Hicksville, Ohio, is handling arrangements.

## Newell Franks

STURGIS, Mich. — Sturgis industrial leader and benefactor Newell A. Franks, 98, died Tuesday Oct. 30, 2007, at his home.

Mr. Franks

He had resided in Sturgis since 1935, coming from Brimfield. He graduated from Rome City High School in Rome City with the class of 1927.

Mr. Franks moved to Sturgis in 1935 to work for Michigan Gas Co. where he set many sales records for the company until the onset of World War II when the bottom dropped out of the appliance business. He then went to work for Laughlin Tool and Die in 1942, which was later sold to Sutton Tool. In 1944, Mr. Franks and two other men started Burr Oak Tool in Burr Oak, Mich., and moved the company to Sturgis in 1946. He worked actively in the business until he was 95 and remained on the board to the present day.

He had been active in many service and civic organizations and in 1982 was named Sturgis Citizen of the Year.

Mr. Franks was a member of First United Methodist Church in Sturgis.

He enjoyed playing golf, hunting and fishing at Klinger Lake.

He was born June 8, 1909, at the family home in Brimfield to Peter Willis and Agnes Ida (Tubolski) Franks. He married Grace A. Disler on Dec. 15, 1928, in Wawaka. She died Oct. 9, 2002.

Surviving are two sons and two daughters-in-law, Richard N. Franks of Sun City, Ariz., Lawrence and Susan Franks of Sturgis and Joyce Franks of Sturgis; nine grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; seven great-great-grandchildren; a brother-in-law, Kenneth Eugene Disler of Fort Wayne; a sister-in-law and her husband, Edna Belle and Dale Augenstine of Fort Wayne; a special niece and her husband, Virginia and Lewis Rawles of Wolcottville; and a special nephew and his wife, Jack and Terryl Franks of Auburn.

He was also preceded in death by his parents; a son, Tom Franks; two grandchildren, Emily Lorie Franks and Richard N. "Ric" Franks; a great-grandson, Christopher Franks; two daughters-in-law, Patricia Franks and Jean Franks; and a brother, William Franks.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at First United Methodist Church in Sturgis with the Revs. Keith Treman and Robert Keim officiating. Burial will be at Oak Lawn Cemetery in Sturgis.

Calling will be from 6-8 p.m. today and 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Friday at Hackman-Foglesong Funeral Home in Sturgis.

Memorial are to First United Methodist Church, 200 Pleasant Ave., Sturgis, MI 49091; Newell A. and Grace A. Franks Fund, Sturges Young Auditorium Fund, Sturgis Hospital Endowment Fund or the Kiwanis Club of Sturgis all in care of the Sturgis Foundation, 310 N. Franks Ave., Sturgis, MI 49091 or the charity of the donor's choice.

Condolences may be sent online to www.legacy.com.

## Imogene Barnhard

BRYAN, Ohio — Imogene E. Barnhard, 81, formerly of Bryan, Ohio, died Thursday, Nov. 1, 2007, at Parkview Nursing Center in Edgerton, Ohio.

Mrs. Barnhard retired from General Telephone after 20 years of service. She was a member of the Bryan Church of Christ and attended Trinity Bible in Edgerton.

She was born Aug. 19, 1926, in Pioneer, Ohio, to Sherman and Floy (Tucker) Rickard. They preceded her in death.

She married Glenn Barnhard on Dec. 7, 1946, in Gibsonburgh, Ohio. He died May 23, 1992.

Surviving are three daughters and a son-in-law, Deborah Poe of Butler, Laura Traster of Butler, and Katherine and Robert Felty of Columbus, Ohio; a brother, Leo Rickard of Bryan, Ohio; a sister, Mary Newcomb of Bryan, Ohio; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Also preceding her in death were four brothers, Rhue, Randal, Clinton and Paul Rickard; and two sisters, Gladys Myers and Irene Wheeler.

Services will be Monday at 10 a.m. in H.E. Johnson and Sons Funeral Home, 212 N. Broadway, Butler, with Pastor Dale Rabineau officiating.

Burial will be in Farmer Cemetery at Farmer, Ohio.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-4 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Parkview Nursing Center.

Condoldences may be sent and a video tribute may be viewed at www.hejohnsonfh.com.

## Makayla Roush

AUBURN — Makayla Renae Grace Roush, infant, died Wednesday, Oct. 31, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

She is survived by her parents, Donald Roush II and Virginia McLaughlin; half sister, Alexis Nicole Lee Roush of South Bend; half brother, Austin Eugene Whittington of Indianapolis; three grandparents, Carol Sumner of Auburn, Sandy Nicewonder of Indianapolis, and Donald Roush of Hamilton.

She was preceded in death by a grandfather Everett McLaughlin; and great-grandparents, William and Edith Rempis, and Verl and Virginia Hart.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Johnson Funeral Home in Hudson, with the Rev. Herbert Strickland officiating. Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery.

Memorials are to the family.

Condolences may be sent to Johnson@bnin.net.

## Mary Reidenbach

WAWAKA — Mary Kathryn Reidenbach, 84, of Wawaka died Thursday, Nov. 1, 2007, after being struck by a vehicle while walking in her neighborhood at her winter home in Tavares, Fla.

Mrs. Reidenbach worked for her parents at Laur's Restaurant in Ligonier and at Uniform Printing in Kendallville. She was later primarily a homemaker, raising her four children, and she also operated a ceramic business out of her home.

**Mrs. Reidenbach**

A Cromwell High School graduate of 1941, she was a member of Wawaka Church of the Brethren, the Red Hat Society in both Noble County and Florida, and the Noble County Gas and Steam Association. She was also a 63-year member of the 500 Card Club in Noble County and was director of the Indiana Farm Bureau for many years.

Her grandchildren were her biggest fans and she handmade each of them quilts when they graduated from high school. When each great-grandchild was born, she made crib quilts for them.

Along with her husband, she enjoyed the many winters she spent in Florida. One of her favorite pastimes was tending to her garden and flower beds.

She was born in Cromwell on Oct. 27, 1923, to B. Ray and Mildred Maude (Fitzpatrick) Miller. She married Jack Edward Reidenbach on Oct. 8, 1944, at the Lutheran Church in Cromwell. He survives.

Also surviving are two daughters and a son-in-law, Vicki and Michael Kuker of Fort Wayne and Peggy Bricker of Kendallville; two sons and a daughter-in-law, Philip R. Reidenbach of Wolcottville and John and Lynn Reidenbach of Wawaka; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Bob and Alice Miller of Attica, Ohio, and Alan and Millie Miler of Pierceton; a sister and brother-in-law, Doris Gene and James Campbell of Humble, Texas; 13 grandchildren, Amy and James Gonzagowski of Fort Wayne, Angela and Gregory Samels of Fort Wayne, Tonya Antonides of Auburn, Troy and Nichole Antonides of Kendallville, Tara and Todd Smith of Indianapolis, Jill and Mike Becker of Albion, Philip Jack and Kim Reidenbach and Christi Plank, all of Cromwell, Emily and Adam Tomlinson of Ligonier, Jackie and Tony Wilson of Columbus, Ohio, Jennifer and Mike Bentley of Ligonier, and Seth Reidenbach and Sam Reidenbach, both of Wawaka; and 13 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a grandson, Aaron Reidenbach in 1986.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Wawaka Church of the Brethren with the Rev. Verne Leininger officiating. Burial will be at Orange Cemetery in Rome City.

Calling will be from 3 to 8 p.m. Monday at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville.

Memorials are to Wawaka Church of the Brethren or the Noble County Democratic Scholarship Fund.

A video tribute, after Monday, may be viewed at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

Arrangements are by Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville.

## Gladys Hart

ST. JOE — Gladys M. Hart, 85, of St. Joe, died Friday Nov. 2, 2007, at the Laurels of DeKalb nursing home in Butler.

Mrs. Hart was a lifelong homemaker and enjoyed her grandchildren, sewing, needlepoint, gardening and playing the accordion. She graduated from St. Joe High School.

**Mrs. Hart**

She was a member of Coburn Corners Church of Christ in rural St. Joe, where she taught children's Sunday School for many years. She was a Home Economic Club member.

She was born Dec. 31, 1921, in Newville to Lloyd and Thelma (Benninghoff) Keener.

She married James A. Hart on Sept. 6, 1940. He died Jan. 31, 2003.

Surviving are three sons and daughters-in-law, William D. and Phyllis of Springfield, Ohio, Gary L. and Roberta of Harlan and Dennis G. and Karen of St. Joe; a daughter, Evon S. Hart; and her special friend, Cecil Hulese of Auburn; eight grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren; a brother, Jerry L. Keener of Butler; and two sisters, Deloris Inlow of Fort Wayne and Shirley Fritz of Hicksville, Ohio.

She was preceded in death by a daughter, Sue Ann.

Services will be Monday at 10 a.m. in Coburn Corners Church of Christ, with Doug Holley and Brian Wilcox officiating. Burial will be in Newville Cemetery.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Smith & Brown Funeral Home, 706 N. Main St., Hicksville, Ohio. and Monday after 9 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to the church.

The EVENING STAR
November 3 2007 Auburn, Indiana

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** *is being reprinted to correct errors made by this newspaper.*

## Makayla Roush

PLEASANT LAKE — Makayla Renae Grace Roush, infant, died Wednesday, Oct. 31, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

She is survived by her parents, Donald Roush II and Virginia McLaughlin; half sister, Alexis Nicole Lee Roush of South Bend; half brother, Austin Eugene Whittington of Indianapolis; three grandparents, Carol Sumner of Auburn, Sandy Nicewonder of Indianapolis, and Donald Roush of Hamilton.

She was preceded in death by a grandfather, Everett McLaughlin; and great-grandparents, William and Edith Rempis, and Verl and Virginia Hart.

Services will be at 2 p.m. today at Johnson Funeral Home in Hudson, with the Rev. Herbert Strickland officiating. Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery.

Calling will be from noon to 2 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family.

Condolences may be sent to Johnson@bnin.net.

# Fun was his middle name

## Bill Soboslay brought enjoyment to all

BY DENNIS HARTKER
dennisn@kpcnews.net

KENDALLVILLE — "He was a good friend, and a good man."

When he thinks about Bill Soboslay, his teammate on the 1951 Kendallville High School track team and his longtime friend, John Hutchins smiles. "We had some great times together," he said.

William J. "Bill" Soboslay Sr., 74, of Kendallville died Monday, Oct. 15, 2007.

He was a three-sport star in high school who pitched in the Chicago Cubs minor league system, a civic-minded Kendallville businessman, a devoted husband married to his high school sweetheart for 54 years and loving father who attended his children's activities and insisted his family sit down for supper each night and say the Lord's Prayer together.

Fun should have been Mr. Soboslay's middle name, according to his friends.

"Bill was sure a lot of fun," said his cousin, Marianna Reick, who baby-sat for the Soboslay children when they were growing up in Kendallville. "He made me laugh so hard some times with his stories. He had a lot of friends."

Hutchins, who played with Soboslay on the successful 1951-52 Kendallville High School Comets varsity basketball team that won the Kendallville sectional, remembers the fun he and his wife had on snow-skiing trips to Michigan with the Soboslays and other local couples. "He was just fun to be with," said Hutchins.

Soboslay's wife, Sallie, remembers her husband's reaction in high school to the opposition booing when the Kendallville team took the floor.

"He hated it. The booing just fired him up," she said.

Soboslay took up golf when he was in California pitching for the California Angels in the Chicago Cubs minor league system. He would become an avid golfer and held the Kendallville Elks golf course record for many years.

Hutchins and retired Kendallville businessman Darol Stroman recalled the many occasions over the years when they played golf with their friend.

"Bill was a natural athlete. Anything he tried he was good at," said Hutchins. "I wasn't a very good golfer, and Bill was a scratch golfer. Even though he was better than me, we had fun because Bill played for the enjoyment of the game and being with friends."

At Soboslay's funeral, Stroman recalled the times when Soboslay brought out his favorite putter. "Bill would hit one of his low wedge shots to the green and make the ball stop somehow," said Stroman. "Then he'd get out that dreaded putter. No matter where his ball was on the green, he rolled it on line to the cup with that putter."

Stroman said whenever he takes out his golf clubs now, he thinks of the great times he had playing golf with Soboslay.

Son Jay Soboslay recalled the time he caddied for his dad in a pro-am in Plymouth with Ladies Professional Golf Association players participating.

"He was paired with tour winner Vivian Bromlee. On the first hole my dad struck his drive in the middle of the fairway, and then struck his approach shot close to the pin. He did this the whole round. It became apparent to me and Bromlee that my dad was a very good player. He was and will always be my hero," Jay Soboslay said.

His daughter, Rhae Dazey, said her father went to all his children's sports activities, baseball, basketball and softball, and then attended his grandchildren's activities. He coached in the Kendallville Youth Baseball Association for many years.

"Dad was a Cubs fan, went to their games in Chicago and spring training games in Arizona," said his daughter, Dee Rathge. "He idolized Ron Santo (former Cubs third baseman and radio commentator)."

His son, Joe Soboslay, remembers his dad saying things at the right moment. "He would grit his teeth and say you're as full of —— as a Christmas goose. He was extremely witty at the most opportune times. What a great man."

Jay described his dad as a "special friend and very loving and caring father who holds a special place in his heart."

Their father loved to cook, especially on the grill.

"He made French dip, his own barbecue sauce, ground his own hash and insisted corn on the cob be grilled in the husk," said Rhae.

Sallie Soboslay remembers the cookouts for family and friends at their Sylvan Lake cottage with her husband grilling the food.

"Cheeseburgers and corn-on-the-cob was his favorite meal," she said.

On their birthdays, Soboslay let his children choose the family meal menu and he would prepare it.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**William J. "Bill" Soboslay and his wife, Sallie**

Family was important. The Soboslays had six children.

"Dad insisted we sit down at the big table and eat together each night," said Dee. "We said the Lord's Prayer."

Rhae and Dee joined hands with their brothers Doug, Joe, Chris and Jay at the funeral to say the Lord's Prayer with their father for the last time.

His boys took out his golf clubs and hit golf balls with them for one last time. His favorite putter lies next to him in Lake View Cemetery.

Mr. Soboslay was born Feb. 24, 1933, in Kendallville, to Anton and Florence (Nartker) Soboslay.

He was owner of the Kendallville Distributing Corp. and co-owner of The Toggery Shop in Kendallville. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Kendallville, where he served as elder and deacon. He was a past president of the Kendallville Rotary Club, a past president of the Kendallville Chamber of Commerce, a former member of the Kendallville Elks, Masonic Lodge and Shrine.

Surviving, in addition to his wife of 54 years, are daughters and sons-in-law, Rhae and Jim Dazey and Dee-Ann and Bill Rathge, all of Kendallville, four sons and two daughters-in-law, Doug and Laura Soboslay and William Joe Soboslay Jr., all of Phoenix, Ariz., Chris Soboslay of Old Hickory, Tenn., and Jay David Soboslay of Kendallville; 20 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

## Donald Burdick

BUTLER — Donald L. Burdick, 73, of Butler died Friday, Nov.2, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Burdick was a retired carpenter and co-owner of Burdick Construction. He was a graduate of Butler High School and served in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict. He was a member of the Butler United Methodist Church, Butler's American Legion Post 202 and the Butler Eagles.

Mr. Burdick

He was born Nov. 28, 1933, in Edelstein, Ill. to Albert and Helen (Hough) Burdick.

He then married Marilyn Keller on Oct. 19, 1957, in Butler. She died Nov. 9, 2002.

He married Suzanne Freidenberger on March 21, 2003, in Butler. She survives.

Also surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Brian and Kim Burdick of Leo and Bruce and Ann Burdick of Fort Wayne; a daughter, Beth Fleming of Decatur; a stepson and stepdaughter-in-law, Jeff and Beth Freidenberger of St. Joe; a brother, Wayne Burdick of Auburn; a sister, Dorothy Easterly of New Haven; eight grandchildren and two step-grandchildren.

Services will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. in the Butler United Methodist Church with Pastor Justin Fisher officiating. Burial will be in Butler Cemetery, with military honors by American Legion Post 202.

Calling will be Monday from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. at H. E.. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home in Butler.

Memorials are to the Butler United Methodist Church.

Condolences may be sent and a video tribute may be viewed at www.hejohnsonfh.com.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** is *being reprinted with new information.*

## Donald Burdick

BUTLER — Donald L. Burdick, 73, of Butler died Friday, Nov.2, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Burdick

Mr. Burdick was a retired carpenter and co-owner of Burdick Construction. He was a graduate of Butler High School and served in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict. He was a member of the Butler United Methodist Church, Butler's American Legion Post 202 and the Butler Eagles.

He was born Nov. 28, 1933, in Edelstein, Ill. to Albert and Helen (Hough) Burdick.

He married Marilyn Keller on Oct. 19, 1957, in Butler. She died Nov. 9, 2002.

He then married Suzanne Freidenberger on March 21, 2003, in Butler. She survives.

Also surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Brian and Kim Burdick of Leo and Bruce and Ann Burdick of Fort Wayne; a daughter, Beth Fleming of Decatur; a stepson and stepdaughter-in-law, Jeff and Beth Freidenberger of St. Joe; a brother, Wayne Burdick of Auburn; a sister, Dorothy Easterly of New Haven; eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Services will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. in the Butler United Methodist Church with Pastor Justin Fisher officiating. Burial will be in Butler Cemetery, with military honors by American Legion Post 202.

Calling will be today from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. at H. E.. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home in Butler.

Memorials are to the Butler United Methodist Church.

Condolences may be sent and a video tribute may be viewed at www.hejohnsonfh.com.

## Lucille Todd

KENDALLVILLE — Lucille Marie Todd, 89, of Avilla and formerly of South Milford died Sunday, Nov. 4, 2007, at Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla.

Mrs. Todd

She graduated in 1936 as valedictorian of her class from St. Joseph High School in Garrett.

As a young girl, she played the violin. In her early 20s, she sang with the Ted Weems Orchestra in and around Fort Wayne. She was an avid reader of current events and history. She was a very domestic person and loved to bake and cook and take care of her family.

Mrs. Todd was a member of Delta Theta Tau Sorority and Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Kendallville.

Mrs. Todd was born in Garrett on April 8, 1918, to Michael and Magdalena (Bapst) Johnson. She married Robert S. Todd on Sept. 27, 1939, in Garrett and he preceded her death March 2, 1988.

Surviving are four daughters and sons-in-law, Barbara and Bob Hedges of Orland, Julie and Hal Kelley of Seagrove Beach, Fla., Sara and Charley Fisher of Kendallville and Mary and Bill Kribbs of Massillon, Ohio; a son and daughter-in-law, Stan and Mel Todd of LaGrange; a sister, Marcella Lewis of Las Vegas, Nev.; a brother, Jerry Johnson of Garrett; 14 grandchildren, Angie Jones of Auburn, Gretchen Mallers of Fort Wayne, Rob Kelley of Woodlands, Texas, Matt Kelley of Rochester, N.Y., Andrea Camp of Cartersville, Ga., Amy Metcalf of Florida, Ryan Todd of Fishers, Mitchell Todd of Ann Arbor, Mich., Lucy Smiley of Fishers, Adam Fisher of Eugene, Ore., Todd Fisher of Gallatin, Tenn., Bill Kribbs of Massillon, Ohio, Betsy Harrison of North Canton, Ohio, and Becky Kribbs of Massillon; and 17 great-grandchildren.

She was also preceded in death by a daughter, Judy Todd on April 8, 1944; two sisters, Lorraine Johnson and Esther Wilson; and three brothers, Harold and Orville Johnson and Danny Seifert.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at Provena Sacred Heart Home, 515 N. Main St. in Avilla, with Father Daniel Leeuw officiating. Burial will be at South Milford Cemetery in South Milford. Pallbearers will be her grandchildren.

Calling will be from 3-7 p.m. Tuesday at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville with a rosary service at 6:45 p.m. There will also be one hour of calling before the funeral Mass.

View a video tribute (after Tuesday) or send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

## Helen Workman

ANGOLA — Helen N. Workman, 85, of Angola died Monday, Nov. 5, 2007, at Northern Lakes Rehabilitation Center in Angola.

Mrs. Workman was a homemaker.

She was born July 16, 1922, in Garrett to Elza and Carrie (Haynes) Jordan. They preceded her in death.

She married Merle Workman on Sept. 16, 1939, in Garrett. He died Sept. 29, 1999.

Surviving are two sons, Larry Workman and Rick Workman, both of Angola; three daughters, Nancy Delucenay of Pleasant Lake, Sharon Goffnett of Ithaca, Mich., and Connie Kellogg of Battle Creek, Mich., five brothers, Robert Jordan, Donald Jordan and Franklin Jordan, all of Garrett, Elza Jordan Jr. of Helmer and Dallas Jordan of Auburn; 13 grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Loyal Jordan.

Services will be Wednesday at 2 p.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with Pastor Ron Moore officiating. Burial will be in the Christian Union Cemetery of Garrett.

Calling will be Wednesday from noon to 2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to a charity of the donor's choice.

## Robert Seely

HUNTERTOWN — Robert R. Seely, 82, of Huntertown died Sunday, Nov. 4, 2007, at 10:50 p.m. at The Laurels of DeKalb nursing home in Butler.

Mr. Seely was an operating engineer-boiler tender at Falstaff Brewery in Fort Wayne for 30 years. He was an Army veteran of World War II and a Huntertown resident for more than 30 years.

He was born Dec. 25, 1924, in Fort Wayne, to Arthur and Nellie (Rhoads) Seely.

He married Delta L. Swick in February 1948. She died in April 2005.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Alan and Brenda Seely of Auburn; a daughter, Coleen Seely of St. Paul, Minn.; three granddaughters, Devin, Candice and Elizabeth Seely of Auburn; a brother, Richard Seely of Fort Wayne; and a sister, Virginia Miller of Fort Wayne.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Arthur Seely, and a sister, Harriett Vroman.

Services will be Thursday at 10 a.m. in Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett. Burial will be in Covington Memorial Gardens at Fort Wayne.

Calling will be Wednesday from 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Emmanuel Lutheran Church of LaOtto.

Condolences may be sent and an online guestbook may be signed at www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

## Jerry Conley

KENDALLVILLE — Jerry Conley, 55, of Kendallville died Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2007, at his rural home.

Mr. Conley

Mr. Conley had been employed as a forklift driver for 37 years at Dalton Foundry in Kendallville.

He built and raced drag cars and had built engines for circle track race cars since he was a teenager. He was an avid Dale Earnhardt and Dale Earnhardt Jr. fan.

Mr. Conley loved to spend time with his children and children of all ages.

He was born in Garrett on July 4, 1952, to Bennie and Dorothy (Handshoe) Conley. He married Clidia Green on March 31, 1972, in Kendallville and she survives.

Also surviving are a son, Chad Conley of Kendallville; a daughter, Sondra Conley, and her boyfriend, Shaun Hagerty, both of Kendallville; a grandson, Trenton Hagerty of Columbia City; a brother and sister-in-law, Jeff and Latesa Conley of Kendallville; and three sisters and two brothers-in-law, Elizabeth and Nick Weber of Avilla, Mary and Daryl Mitchell of LaOtto and Barb Bowman of LaOtto.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Friday at Community Baptist Church, Wolcottville, with Pastor Willie Collins officiating. Burial will be at Orange Cemetery in Rome City. Pallbearers will be Ben Gaerte, Shaun Hagerty, Gary Long, Nick Weber, Scott Green, Kevin Grigsby, Ronnie Miller and Lonnie Conley.

Calling will be from 3-8 p.m. Thursday at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville.

View a video tribute (after Thursday) or send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

## Fern Flood

FORT WAYNE — Fern E. Flood, 89, of Fort Wayne and formerly of Auburn died Wednesday, Nov. 7, 2007, at Parkview North Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Flood

Mrs. Flood was a homemaker.

She was born Sept. 15, 1918, in Elkhart to Ed and Viola (Ordway) Hartranft.

She was married to Allen L. Flood for more than 43 years. He survives in Fort Wayne.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Paul E. and Karen Dwyer of Fort Wayne; a daughter and son-in-law, Judith M. and Edwin Thomas of Fort Wayne; three sisters, Irene Worman, Norma Jean Airgood and Ann Metzler, all of Bradenton, Fla.; six grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a son, Baruch Dwyer.

Services will be Saturday at 1 p.m. at Feller & Clark Funeral Home of Auburn. The Rev. Al Black will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Friday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society.

## Wanita Albertson

AVILLA — Wanita M. Albertson, 84, of Avilla and formerly of Butler died peacefully Wednesday morning, Nov. 7, 2007, at Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla.

Mrs. Albertson

She was born Aug. 28, 1923, in LaOtto to Charley and Bessie (Pepple) Hoff.

She married Charles "Tiny" Albertson on Dec. 24, 1942, in Auburn. He died May 16, 1989.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Connie and Bill Smith of Fort Wayne; a sister, Kate Truelove of LaOtto; seven grandchildren; and 19 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a son, Charley; a daughter, Darlene Schortgen; and two sisters, Emma Jean Offered and Myrtle Barret.

Graveside services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. in Christian Union Cemetery, Garrett. There will be no other services or calling.

Memorials are to Provena Sacred Heart Home.

H.E. Johnson & Son Funeral Home of Butler is handling arrangements.

## Lois Fetzer

HAMILTON — Lois M. Fetzer, 80, of Hamilton died Wednesday, Nov. 7, 2007, at her home.

Born in Hicksville, Ohio, she was the owner of Fetzer's Bakery in Auburn and Hamilton for 60 years. She graduated from Hicksville High School.

Surviving are a daughter, Marsha Peter of Hicksville, and nine grandchildren, Steve Yontz of Hagentown, Craig Hennessey of Fort Wayne, Rodney Cool of Hamilton, Scott Hennessey of Waterloo, Max Fetzer of Auburn, Heather Thorndyke of Tennessee, Brian Hennessey of Fort Wayne, and Stephen Fetzer and Austin Fetzer, both of Angola.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Max Fetzer; two sisters, Francis Chomer and Mary J. Richards; and three children, Cathie Baker, Rebecca Cool and Max S. Fetzer.

Services will be Friday at 2 p.m. at McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St. Auburn. Jeff Alexander will officiate. Burial will be in Scipio Cemetery near Harlan.

Calling will be Friday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Cancer Society.

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## Donna Cook

PLEASANT LAKE — Donna M. Cook, 64, of Pleasant Lake died Thursday, Nov. 8, 2007, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

She was a nurses aide at nursing homes and group homes.

In Pleasant Lake on Oct. 28, 1943, she was born to Bertram and Thelma (Butts) Coe.

Surviving are three sons, Lynn Cook of Midland, Mich., Gene Cook of Pleasant Lake, and Steven Cook of Angola; seven grandchildren; and a niece, Marilyn Puckett of Auburn.

Her parents preceded her in death.

Graveside services will be at 1 p.m. Monday at Circle Cemetery, Hudson.

Weicht Funeral Home, Angola, is in charge of arrangements.

The EVENING STAR
November 11 2007 Auburn, Indiana

# A quiet man with a resounding impact

BY JIM SHILANDER
jims@kpcnews.net

KENDALLVILLE — Harold Stabe may have seemed quiet, even strict, his wife Betty said, but behind that stoicism was a man who brought more than one person a better life.

Mr. Stabe died at age 95 on Oct. 4 in Fort Wayne after living life as a farmer in both Noble and DeKalb counties, as well as working in the surveyor's office in Noble County.

But it was in helping others, his wife said, that he changed lives.

"He worked for the work-release program ... Those boys, a lot of them, he taught them how to be better," she said.

"He would tell them, you don't even put gum paper by the river bank, you put it in your pocket."

At his 95th birthday party this past March, Mrs. Stabe said, two of "his boys," now older men, knelt beside her husband's wheelchair to tell him, 'Harold, you made a difference in our lives.'"

The biggest difference may have been made in the life of one young man who credits Mr. Stabe with turning him into an American, calling Mr. Stabe "solid as the Rock of Gibraltar."

Fred Roeder immigrated to the United States in 1957 from East Germany. Mr. Stabe had agreed to take Roeder in. Roeder, in an e-mail, said he "became a family member from that first day.

Mr. Stabe

"I went into what has been called 'culture shock;' a different language, other customs, a different functioning society, but with his proverbial patience Harold went to work on me and step-by-step, he put me on the path of becoming an American," he said. "When I look upon myself today I find that I have 'Harold Stabe' written all over myself; in my value system, in my relationships with other people and how I function in society at large."

Roeder, who was sponsored by the World Council of Churches, credits Mr. Stabe with starting him on a career in surveying, which he eventually took him to New Mexico.

"That showed the dedication and the kind of man Harold was," Mrs. Stabe said. Mr. Stabe was also involved in Democratic politics.

"He was close to Birch and Evan Bayh, and he once attended a luncheon with John F. Kennedy," Mrs. Stabe said.

Betty said her husband always tried to live his lie in a godly way, which he brought to his role as husband and father. He was also involved in collecting cars.

"We won many, many trophies for our cars," she said, which included, a pink 1959 Dodge, a 1962 Chrysler 300, a 1926 letter car, and one of the final Chrysler Imperials. Stabe had worked at the Auburn-Cord-Duesenberg plant, and had remained active in activities for former employees.

Mr. Stabe's life, his wife said, could be summed up by a favorite passage from Proverbs: Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

"He lived by that everyday of his life," Mrs. Stabe said.

The EVENING STAR
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## Alfred Days

CORUNNA — Alfred E. Days, 78, of Corunna died Friday, Nov. 9, 2007, at V.A. Northern Indiana Health Care System in Fort Wayne.

Alfred Days

Mr. Days worked for Earl Brindle in LaOtto and also the Truelove Brothers in Albion as a farm implement mechanic since he was in high school. He retired in the early '90s. He also served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War from 1952 through 1953.

He was a member of the Maple Grove United Methodist Church in rural Corunna. He was a member of the Garrett American Legion and was a lifetime member of the Garrett V.F.W. He loved working in his garden and doing various things in the yard. He thoroughly enjoyed working on Allis-Chalmers tractors. He loved to watch cartoons and spending countless hours with family and friends.

He was born Nov. 16, 1928, to Edison and Mabel (Grear) Days, who both preceded him in death. He married Ramona Zook on May 9, 1954, in Stroh. She survives in Corunna.

Also surviving are two daughters and a son-in-law, Marilee Days of Garrett, and Marlene and David Gee of Rome City; two sons and a daughter-in-law, Duane and Sue Days of LaGrange, and Troy Days of Corunna; nine grandchildren, Tracy Davis, Dalton Gee, Duane Days, Frankie Days, Cynthia Howard, Farin Carmichael, Nicole Days, Michelle Days and Shaun Days; 13 great-grandchildren; and two sisters and a brother-in-law, Sally and Doug Cheek of Auburn, and Jackie Smith of Fort Wayne.

He was also preceded in death by two brothers and eight sisters.

Services will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. at Feller Funeral Home in Waterloo, with the Rev. Diane Barrett officiating. Burial will be in Sedan Cemetery in rural Corunna. Graveside military services will be conducted by the Garrett American Legion.

Calling will be from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, as well as one hour prior to services, at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Feller Funeral Home to help with funeral expenses.

## Roger Woodcock

KENDALLVILLE — Roger G. Woodcock, 89, of Kendallville died Saturday, Nov. 10, 2007, at Parkview Noble Hospital in Kendallville.

Mr. Woodcock had been a railroad conductor for the B&O and CSX railroads for 36 years, retiring in 1976. Following his retirement, he did various stonemason projects around northeast Indiana. Mr. Woodcock was a co-owner of the Fairfield Nursery in DeKalb County.

He was a member of St. John Lutheran Church in Kendallville. He was also a member of the BRT/UTU railroad unions, Garrett American Legion Post No. 178 since 1942, and the Indiana Historical Society.

He graduated from Avilla High School in 1936. After high school, Mr. Woodcock went through Officers Candidate School in New Orleans, La., in preparation for the military. Mr. Woodcock served in the United States Army from 1942 until 1946 during World War II. During his military service Mr. Woodcock was awarded the Western Pacific Presidential Citation, the U.S. Bronze Star, and the Philippine Government Star.

He had been a stonemason in the Pokagon State Park Civilian Conservation Corps No. 556 and he was a co-organizer of the first National Civilian Conservation Corps Reunion.

Mr. Woodcock was born on Nov. 4, 1918, in Garrett to Arthur H. and Sarah A. (Morgan-Foster) Woodcock. He married Laura W. Miller on Jan. 7, 1945, in Kendallville at St. John Lutheran Church. She survives in Kendallville.

Also surviving are four sons, Wade, Brian, Raymond and Gary; two daughters, Janice and Brenda; a sister, Patricia; 11 grandchildren; one great-granddaughter and four great-grandsons.

He was preceded in death by his parents; three brothers, Alfred, Arthur and Ralph; and four sisters; Charlotte, Florence, Edith and Margaret.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Hite Funeral Home with the Rev. Paul B. Griebel of St. John Lutheran Church officiating. Burial will be at Lake View Cemetery in Kendallville.

Calling from noon to 2 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the St. John Lutheran Church Building Fund.

Condolences may be sent to www.hitefuneralhome.com.

## Don Cloward

GRABILL — Don H. "Maddog" Cloward, 64, died Saturday morning, Nov. 10, 2007, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Cloward

Mr. Cloward was a retired engineer for Norfolk Western Railroad and an Army veteran. He loved to collect railroad memorabilia and old cars.

He was born May 11, 1943, in Texas to Don S. and Ruth (Hayes) Cloward.

Surviving are three daughters, Oshel Cloward and Sabrina Wright, both of Berlin Heights, Ohio, and Katie Jane Cloward of Las Vegas, Nev.; a son, Christopher Cloward of Gulf Shores, Ala.; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a son, Ricky Alan Cloward, in 1988, and two sisters.

Services will be Tuesday at 10 a.m. in Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home in Spencerville, with the Rev. Retha Martin officiating. Burial will be in Utah.

Calling will be today from 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Diabetes Association or Lions SightFirst.

## Donald Sowles

GARRETT — Donald W. Sowles, 74, of Garrett died Saturday, Nov. 10, 2007, at Parkview North Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Sowles had owned and operated Sowles Welding in rural Garrett since January 1962.

He was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran of the Korean conflict, serving from 1953-1956 and earning the Navy Presidential Unit Citation, the Korea, National Defense, Marine Corps Good Conduct and United Nations awards, and the Expert Rifleman medal.

Mr. Sowles was a member of the Auburn Church of the Nazarene and Disabled American Veterans. He was an avid bird watcher and had a very creative nature and loved to invent things.

He was born May 10, 1933, in Pleasant Lake to Jay and Nina (Collins) Sowles.

On May 27, 1960, in Angola, he married Mary L. Batdorf. She survives in Garrett.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Edward A. and Dawn Sowles of Auburn; two daughters and a son-in-law, Laura E. Boswell of Raleigh, N.C., and Nina M. and Bryan Bosell of Auburn; two grandchildren, Kiel Bosell and Kasey Bosell, both of Auburn; three brothers and sisters-in-law, Ronald and Nancy Sowles of Albion and Jay Eugene and Judy Sowles and Lloyd and Debbie Sowles, all of Tahlequah, Okla.; three sisters and two brothers-in-law, Betty Jane and Everett Sauders of New Haven, Sandra Sue and Steve Curtis of LaGrange and Diana Matson of Atlanta, Ga.; and a sister-in-law, Viola Sowles of Auburn.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Leon Sowles and Dorsey Sowles.

Services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. in the Auburn Church of the Nazarene with Pastor Dan White officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn with a military graveside service by American Legion Post 97 of Auburn.

Calling will be Tuesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn.

Memorials are to the Auburn Church of the Nazarene or Parkview Home Health and Hospice.

## Richard Cassiday

KENDALLVILLE — Richard Levi Cassiday, 66, of Kendallville died Saturday, Nov. 10, 2007, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Cassiday

Mr. Cassiday had been employed with Dekko Extrusion in Kendallville since 1984.

He was an avid outdoorsman and loved to go deer hunting and fishing. He enjoyed his gun collection, mowing the grass and taking care of his yard.

Mr. Cassiday loved his family, especially his grandchildren, and enjoyed visiting with his neighbors.

He was a member of House of Prayer near Corunna.

Mr. Cassiday served his country in the United States Army from 1958 to 1962 and he spent two years in Germany during peacetime.

He was born in Hastings, Mich., on March 26, 1941, to Clinton Lee and Mary Elizabeth (Green) Cassiday. On May 19, 1962, he married Judy Lou Barbee in Winterhaven, Calif., on May 19, 1962. She survives in Kendallville.

Also surviving are his mother, Mary Naylor of Kendallville; two daughters and a son-in-law, Charlette Cassiday of Auburn and Heather and Jason Gaines of Kendallville; four grandchildren, LaRisa Pickard, Alora Cassiday and Robert Barnes, all of Kendallville, and Shawna Pickard of Auburn; a great-granddaughter, Skyra Kay Likens of Kendallville; a brother, Kenny Cassiday of Kendallville; and a sister and brother-in-law, Elizabeth and Paul Carr of Kendallville.

He was preceded in death by his father; his stepfather, Valentine Naylor; a daughter, LaDona Sawyer in June 2006; a brother, Junior Cassiday; and two sisters, Norma Strunk and Louise Hicks

Services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville with the Rev. Earl Tackett officiating. Burial will be at Brushy Chapel Cemetery in LaGrange.

Calling will be from 3-8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

View a video tribute (after Tuesday) or send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

## Willene Critney

AUBURN — Willene Critney, 86, of Auburn died Sunday, Nov. 11, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mrs. Critney was a homemaker and worked at Essex in Auburn. She was a member of the Waterloo United Methodist Church and was a Girl Scout leader.

She was born Sept. 21, 1921, in Mishawaka to William and Leola (Miller) Rapp. They preceded her in death.

She married Grant Dale Critney on Nov. 5, 1949, in Warsaw, and he survives.

Also surviving are two daughters and a son-in-law, Catherine J. and Wayne Kessler of Auburn and Elizabeth A. Treesh of Waterloo; four grandchildren, Timothy Kessler, Bethany Steurer and her husband, Brent, Natasha Treesh and Noah Treesh; five great-grandchildren; and two sisters-in-law, Leatrice Rapp of Milford and Elizabeth Rapp of Englewood, Fla.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, Marvin E. Rapp and Donald Rapp.

Services will be Thursday at 11 a.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. The Rev. Rex Charles will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Wednesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Waterloo United Methodist Church.

## David Swary

HAMILTON — David A. Swary, 62, of Hamilton died Sunday, Nov. 11, 2007, at his home.

Mr. Swary

Mr. Swary worked at Navistar for 34 years.

He was born Sept. 19, 1945, in Defiance, Ohio, to Paul and Judy (Hale) Swary. He married Dani Clapp on June 15, 1992, in Angola. She survives in Hamilton.

He is also survived by his two daughters, Andrea Syndram of Warsaw, and Paula Swary of Fort Wayne; grandchildren, Tyler, Seth and Natalie Syndram of Warsaw, Simone and Aleah Swary of Fort Wayne; his mother, Judy Swary of Hamilton; brother, Dennis and wife Carol Swary of Fremont; and sisters, Linda and husband Mike Carrigan of Destin, Fla. and Shirley and husband Jerry Fee of Auburn.

His father preceded him in death.

A memorial service will be held on Wednesday, at 11 a.m. in the Oberlin-Ford Funeral Home and Crematory of Hamilton, with the Rev. Scott Saltsman officiating.

Calling will be held one hour prior to the service and from 5 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions in the name of David A. Swary are requested to the American Cancer Society.

Condolences may be sent by visiting www.oberlin-ford.com.

## Dorothy Lewis

LAGRANGE — Dorothy M. Lewis, 74, of LaGrange, formerly of Orland, died Monday, Nov. 12, 2007, at Laurels of DeKalb in Butler.

Mrs. Lewis was a homemaker and retired clerk.

She was a graduate of Bronson (Mich.) High School. She enjoyed spending time with her family. She lived most of her life in the Orland area.

She was born Feb. 6, 1933, in Bronson, Mich., to William and Gertrude Laughry, who both preceded her in death. She was married to Frank Lewis, who survives in LaGrange.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Tim and Misty Lewis of LaGrange; and two grandchildren, Jeremy and Stephanie Lewis, both of LaGrange.

Services and calling are both private family services.

Memorials are to the Kidney Foundation of Indiana.

Arrangements are by Beams Funeral Home in Fremont.

Condolences may be sent online to www.beamsfuneral-home.com.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** *is being reprinted with additional surviving relatives.*

## Alfred Days

CORUNNA — Alfred E. Days, 78, of Corunna died Friday, Nov. 9, 2007, at V.A. Northern Indiana Health Care System in Fort Wayne.

**Mr. Days**

Mr. Days had worked for Earl Brindle in LaOtto and also the Truelove Brothers in Albion as a farm implement mechanic since he was in high school. He retired in the early 1990s. He also served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War from 1952 through 1953.

He was a member of the Maple Grove United Methodist Church in rural Corunna. He was a member of the Garrett American Legion and was a lifetime member of the Garrett Veterans of Foreign Wars. He loved working in his garden and doing various things in the yard. He thoroughly enjoyed working on Allis-Chalmers tractors. He loved to watch cartoons and spending countless hours with family and friends.

He was born Nov. 16, 1928, to Edison and Mabel (Grear) Days, who both preceded him in death. He married Ramona Zook on May 9, 1954, in Stroh. She survives in Corunna.

Also surviving are two daughters and a son-in-law, Marilee Days of Garrett and Marlene and David Gee of Rome City; two sons and a daughter-in-law, Duane and Sue Days of LaGrange and Troy Days of Corunna; nine grandchildren, Tracy Davis, Dalton Gee, Duane Days, Frankie Days, Cynthia Howard, Farin Carmody, Nicole Days, Michelle Days and Shaun Days; 13 great-grandchildren; and two sisters and a brother-in-law, Sally and Doug Cheek of Auburn and Jackie Smith of Fort Wayne; and three additional brothers-in-law, Carl Stout of LaOtto, Joe Quinonez of Auburn and Herb Donat of Waterloo; and several nieces and nephews.

He was also preceded in death by two brothers and eight sisters.

Services were today at 11 a.m. at Feller Funeral Home in Waterloo, with the Rev. Diane Barrett officiating. Burial was in Sedan Cemetery in rural Corunna. Graveside military services were conducted by the Garrett post of the American Legion.

Memorials are to Feller Funeral Home to help with funeral expenses.

## Alverta Dermott

ST. JOE — Alverta M. Dermott, 84, died Monday, Nov. 12, 2007, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

She was a graduate of Rensselaer High School and the International Business College in Fort Wayne. She was employed at The Vogue clothing store as a bookkeeper.

She was a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Hicksville, Ohio, the Rosary & Altar Society and the American Sewing Guild.

She was born Aug. 29, 1923, at Rensselaer to Tom and Hazel Cain.

On Aug. 30, 1952, she married Marion Dermott. He died in 1967.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Victor and Madeleine of Yorkville, Ill., and Terrence and Kanya of St. Joe; three granddaughters, Bernadette, Eilleen and Theresa Dermott; and one brother, Dennis Cain of Los Angeles.

She was preceded in death by her brothers and sisters.

Services will be at St. Augustine Catholic Church of Rensselaer at 2:30 p.m. Thursday with Father Jim Miller officiating. Burial will be in Mount Calvary Cemetery of Rensselaer.

Calling will be Wednesday from 4-8 p.m. at Smith & Brown Funeral Home in Hicksville, Ohio, with a prayer service at 7:30 p.m.

Additional calling will be at Jackson Funeral Chapel, 250 N. McKinley St., Rensselaer, from 1-2 p.m. Thursday.

Memorials are to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

## James Heether Jr.

FREMONT — James H. Heether Jr., 79, died Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2007, at his home on Lake James.

Mr. Heether was a granite broker, owning and operating his own business, Heether Granite Sales. He was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II.

He was born Nov. 17, 1927, in Columbia, Mo., to the James H. and Mary Francis (Dawes) Heether. They preceded him in death.

He married Helen Halstead on July 30, 1945, in Iowa City, Iowa, and she survives.

Also surviving are three sons, James L. Heether of Battle Creek, Mich., Michael H. Heether of Canyon City, Colo., and Mark L. Heether of Fremont; a daughter and son-in-law, Deborah and Greg Herkemhine of Waterloo; six grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Services will be Thursday at 6 p.m. in Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Entombment will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Thursday from 4-6 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Cameron Memorial Hospice.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** *is being reprinted to provide additional survivors.*

## Donna Cook

PLEASANT LAKE — Donna M. Cook, 64, of Pleasant Lake died Thursday, Nov. 8, 2007, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

She was a nurses aide at nursing homes and group homes.

In Pleasant Lake on Oct. 28, 1943, she was born to Bertram and Thelma (Butts) Coe. They preceded her in death.

Surviving are three sons and daughters-in-law, Lynn and Michelle Cook of Midland, Mich., Gene and Dawn Cook of Pleasant Lake, and Steven and Kim Cook of Angola; seven grandchildren; three nieces, Marilyn Puckett and Colleen Jones of Auburn, and Darla Fuller of Kendallville; and a nephew, Don Morningstar of Garrett.

She was also preceded in death by a sister, Lois M. Puckett.

Graveside services were at Monday at Circle Cemetery, Hudson.

Weicht Funeral Home, Angola, is in charge of arrangements.

## Jack Young

GARRETT — Jack Lee Young, 59, of Garrett died Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2007, at Parkview Memorial Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Young had been employed 14 years at Tower Automotive in Kendallville.

After graduating in 1969 from East Noble High School, he entered the United States Army and served two years during the Vietnam War era.

Mr. Young was a member of First Baptist Church.

He enjoyed repairing and building cars, engines and reading auto magazines.

Mr. Young also enjoyed camping.

He was born on Oct. 4, 1948, in Kendallville to Otto Edward and Deloruse Ann (Strouse) Young. He married Starr Kae Myers on June 29, 1973, at the First Baptist Church in Kendallville. She survives in Garrett.

Also surviving are his mother, Deloruse Young of Provena Sacred Heart Home, Avilla; two sons and a daughter-in-law, Marshall Young of LaGrange and Adam and Sherry Young of Wolcottville; a daughter and son-in-law, Jennifer and Eric Buss of Garrett; five grandchildren, Johanna, Aiden and Ellanore Buss and Ashley and Brooke Young; a sister and brother-in-law, Sue and Jack Jarrett of Kendallville; and a sister-in-law, Judy Young of McClish Lake near Helmer.

He was preceded in death by his father; and a brother, William Young in 2004.

Services will be at noon Saturday at the First Baptist Church, corner of Oak and Mitchell streets, Kendallville, with Pastor Percy Young officiating. Burial will be in Lake View Cemetery at Kendallville.

Calling will be from 5-9 p.m. today at the church.

Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville is in charge of arrangements.

Send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

## Bonita Boyer

ROXBORO, N.C. — Bonita "Bonnie" Fansler Boyer, 91, of Roxboro, N.C., died Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2007, at her home.

Mrs. Boyer was a native of Garrett and a graduate of Manchester College. She was a teacher and volunteer, most recently volunteering at the Extended Care Unit of Person Memorial Hospital.

Surviving are a son, Ted Boyer; a daughter, Janis Pinto; and five grandchildren, Brittany and Chris Boyer, Hector and Corey Pinto and Shawn Klinko.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Ralph Boyer.

Services will be at 11 a.m. today at Brooks & White Chapel in Roxboro with the Rev. T.R. Miller officiating. Burial will be at 10 a.m. Monday, Nov. 26, in Cedar Creek Cemetery in Garrett.

Memorials are to the ALS Association, Jim "Catfish" Hunter Chapter, 120-01 Penmarc Drive, Raleigh, NC 27603.

Thomas Funeral Home of Garrett is handling local arrangements.

## William Emick

HAMILTON — William I. "Bud" Emick, 70, Hamilton, away Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2007, at his home.

Mr. Emick was a retired master brick mason.

He was a member of the Butler Eagles and Hamilton Fish and Game Club. He was an avid Ohio State Buckeyes fan.

He was born Jan. 9, 1937, in Cairo, Ohio, to William J. and Gwendolyn (Harshman) Emick. He married Enaid Armstrong on June 2, 1979. She survives in Butler.

He is also survived by three daughters and sons-in-law, Deborah Leal and Mario Hernandez Jr. of Napoleon, Ohio, Rebecca and Jim Taylor of Curtice, Ohio, and Jennifer and Dan Kohl of Lima, Ohio; two stepsons and their spouses, Jeff and Linda Clemens of Albuquerque, N.M., and Brian and Shelly Clemens of Hamilton; 12 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and two sisters and a brother-in-law, Jo and Willis Tudor of Columbus Grove, Ohio, and Sue Morse of Lima, Ohio.

His parents and a stepson, Tommy Clemens, preceded him in death.

Service are private.

A celebration of Emicks's life will be held Sunday at 4 p.m. at Portside Galley and Pub in Hamilton.

Memorials are to the donor's choice.

The Oberlin-Ford Funeral Home and Crematory in Hamilton is handling the arrangements.

## LaDonna Shoudel

FORT WAYNE — LaDonna C. Shoudel, 82, of Fort Wayne died Thursday, Nov. 15, 2007, at 5 p.m. at her home.

Mrs. Shoudel

Ms. Shoudel worked as the vault principal at International Harvestor in Fort Wayne for 38 1/2 years, retiring in 1982.

She was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church, American Legion Post 176 Auxiliary and the Eagles Auxiliary, all in Garrett.

She was born July 5, 1925, to Charles T. and Cora G. (Mansfield) Shoudel. They preceded her in death.

Surviving are two brothers, Carl W. Shoudel Sr. of Fort Wayne and Charles E. Shoudel of Garrett; two sisters, Martha Jane Anderson of Fort Wayne and Mary Lou DeWitt of Garrett; and 16 nieces and nephews.

Also preceding her in death were a brother, Donald C. Shoudel, and a sister, Angel Rose Shoudel.

Services will be Monday at 11 a.m. in St. Joseph Catholic Church of Garrett with Father Andrew Nazareth officiating. Burial will be in Catholic Cemetery in Auburn.

Calling will be Monday from 9-11 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to Masses or St. Joseph Catholic School.

Thomas Funeral Home of Garrett is handling arrangements.

Condolences may be sent and an online register book may be signed at www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

## Alice Dean

AUBURN — Alice R. Dean, 82, of Auburn died Friday, Nov. 16, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

She worked for Campbell Soup in California.

She was born May 23, 1925, in Harlan, Ky., to McKinley and Amanda (Blevins) Skidmore. They preceded her in death.

Surviving are two sons, Henry Napier of California and Arthur Napier of Goshen; two bothers, Frank Skidmore of Statesville, N.C., and Willie Skidmore of Auburn; and four sisters, Grace Gunn of Auburn, Ann Mae Rigney of Ages, Ky., Eveyln Eddins of Auburn and Pauline Harrison of California.

She was preceded in death by four brothers, Harlan Skidmore, Lawrence Skidmore, Herbert Skidmore and McKinley Skidmore Jr., and one sister, Buehlah Skidmore.

Graveside services will be Monday in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn with the Rev. Raymond Warner officiating.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home of Auburn is handling arrangements.

## Lula Titler

AUBURN — Lula Mae Titler, 80, of Auburn died Friday, Nov. 16, 2007, at Parkview North Hospital in Fort Wayne from pancreatic cancer, which was diagnosed this week.

Mrs. Titler

Mrs. Titler worked at Marshall Clothing in Butler, Crane Edmund in Butler and Magnavox in Auburn before retiring in 1990. She attended both the Butler Church of the Nazarene and the Auburn Nazarene Church.

She was born Feb. 2, 1927, in Union, S.C., to Kimzy and Mattie (Henderson) Messer. They preceded her in death.

She married Lynn Titler on Oct. 28, 1967, in Butler. He survives.

Also surviving are two daughters, Teressa Goodman of Fort Branch and Patricia Gordon of Butler; two grandchildren, Mary Ann Vazquez and Walter Paul Smith, both of Butler; and two great-grandchildren, Annabel Vazquez and Aydan Vazquez.

She was preceded in death by two brothers and two sisters.

Mrs. Titler asked that no calling or services be held for her, and her family is honoring her request.

Memorials are to Shriners Hospital.

Feller & Clark Funeral Home of Auburn is handling arrangements.

## Dan Huss

FORT WAYNE — Dan Huss, 62, died Thursday, Nov. 15, 2007, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Huss graduated from Bluffton High School and from Indiana Institute of Technology in 1967. He was a member of the Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity and was active on the alumni board for many years. He also volunteered for the American Cancer Society for a decade and was a member of the Leo American Legion Post 409.

**Mr. Huss**

**Mr. Huss**

He worked for 33 years as a computer analyst for International Harvester/Navistar in Fort Wayne. For the last six years, he worked for Summit Cleaning Service in Fort Wayne.

He was born Dec. 7, 1944, in Fort Wayne, Indiana to Earl and Mildred (Johnson) Huss. His mother survives in Bluffton, and his father preceded him in death.

He married Mar Furnish on May 21, 1966, in Cedarville. She survives.

Also surviving are a son, Travis Huss of Fort Wayne; a daughter and son-in-law, Tisha and Rick Heller of Trafalgar; seven grandchildren, Miranda and her husband, John, Brianna, Travis Jr., Jacob, Cole, Kayleigh and Kyle; three brothers and sisters-in-law, Dave and Margie of Ossian, Don and Vicky of Bluffton and Doug and Judy of Bluffton; a sister, Diann Huss of Decatur; many nieces and nephews and many, many friends.

He was preceded in death by granddaughter, Dana, in August 2000.

Services will be Monday at 2 p.m. in the Spencerville United Methodist Church. Burial in White City Cemetery at Spencerville.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-6 pm at Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home in Spencerville.

Memorials are to the American Heart Association, 3816 Paysphere Circle, Chicago, IL 60674 or to a charity of the donor's choice.

# Tough guy had a heart of gold

BY VIV ROSSWURM
vivianr@kpcnews.net

AUBURN — Daryl Dove was passionate about many things, not the least his grandchildren, Indiana University basketball, Colts football, Cubs baseball and fishing. The teddy bear of a man was kind and caring and treasured family and friends, his children and siblings said.

When he had any free time, Dove would take his three sons — and later his grandchildren — outside to play ball, remembers oldest son, Brad Dove. Brad doesn't remember ever seeing his father watch anything on television other than sporting events.

Mr. Dove

Daryl Dove died unexpectedly July 14 at the age of 53 from complications related to surgery.

A 1972 graduate of Eastside High School, Mr. Dove worked at SPX Contech in Auburn and was a former emergency medical technician. For many years he served as a youth league coach in Butler and later, Auburn.

He was born in Bryan, Ohio, one of six children of Authur and Esther (Young) Dove.

His sister, Deanna Dohner, Garrett, remembers all of her brothers were mischievous and teased her — the only girl of the family — but her brother Daryl was very, very special, she said.

"He walked many Sundays to church and to Sunday school," Dohner said.

"There were six of us, and we didn't have much, but we were very close and always looked after each other," said brother Larry Dove of Butler.

Daryl Dove attended Tamarack School and Butler Elementary School and, as a young boy growing up on his family's farm, was very active in his local 4-H Club. One thing he always looked forward to, remembers Dohner, was the DeKalb County Free Fall Fair.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Daryl Dove doted on his grandchildren and the sky was the limit when it came to their wants and needs, said his oldest son, Brad.**

"That event was always a big family reunion for our family, and Daryl always enjoyed it so much," said Dohner.

Larry Dove said this year's fair was especially hard for him and the rest of the family.

"Every year at the DeKalb County fair, we would sit on the steps of the courthouse annex and talk and tell stories," Larry Dove said. "This was the first year in many, many years that Daryl was not at the fair. It was a tough summer for all of us."

Daryl Dove was known to family and co-workers as somewhat of a perfectionist. He was in charge of the tool crib and inventory at SPX Contech and was very organized, Brad Dove said.

"His co-workers said he had a place for everything and made people ask permission before they entered the shop," Brad Dove said.

Co-workers would take delight in sneaking into the tool crib when Daryl Dove was on break and moving things around just to drive him crazy, said Dohner.

"My brother liked to think he was a tough guy, but he had a big heart of gold," Larry Dove said.

The night before he entered a hospital for pre-surgery procedures, Daryl Dove got on the telephone and called all of his siblings to make sure they were OK.

"I had congestive heart failure, and he was worried about me," Larry Dove said. "I said to him, 'Maybe you should be worried about yourself,' but he just laughed and said that was just the way he was."

Daryl Dove was extremely proud of his three sons, Brad, Chris and Danny, and of the fact that Danny was serving in the Iraq War, as well as his eight grandchildren.

"He spoiled his grandchildren rotten," Brad Dove said. "He loved kids and even included his girlfriend's children and grandchildren" in that special circle, Brad Dove said.

Daryl Dove liked nothing better than to grab a fishing partner and head to brother Dave's house on Hamilton Lake and spend the day fishing. That and anytime he could catch a Colts, I.U. or Cubs game, he was happy.

At his funeral, his children placed a copy of Colts' coach Tony Dungy's newest book in the casket, and the room was filled with photos of Dove with various youth league teams he had coached over the years.

"I still love him and think of him often," said Larry Dove.

"Everyone should be so blessed as to have a brother like Daryl," said Dohner. "He will live in our hearts forever."

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## Louis Topp

Louis Topp, 43, of Waterloo died Friday, Nov. 16, 2007, at his home.

Mr. Topp was born Nov. 24, 1963, in Fort Wayne to Norman and Phyllis (Swaim) Topp.

He is survived by two sons, Nathan Topp and Greg Topp, both of Waterloo; two brothers, Joseph Topp and Norman Topp, both of Fort Wayne; and a sister, Gina Topp of Waterloo.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Eleanor Reas.

Services will be 7 p.m. Tuesday, at Feller Funeral Home, Waterloo.

Calling will be 5-7 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Diabetes Association.

## Betty Stauffer

SPENCERVILLE — Betty Stauffer, 70, of Spencerville died Friday, Nov. 16, 2007, at her residence.

She was employed by Grabill Cabinets and enjoyed giving and sharing her paintings with many.

Survivors include her husband, DuWayne W. Stauffer of Spencerville; two sons and a daughter-in-law, Wayne Bowser and Bill and Goldie Bowser; two daughters, Colleen Anderson and Teresa (Stauffer) Snyder; a beloved, Cheryl Edger; and a sister, Viola Murray.

She was preceded in death by a foster child, Robert Hinkle.

A private service was held Sunday at Hockemeyer Funeral Home, Harlan.

## Charles Browning

MIDDLEBURY — Charles Wayne Browning, 56, of Middlebury died Thursday, Nov. 15, 2007, at 8 p.m. at his home.

Mr. Browning worked at local factories performing electrical duties and retired from Mid-American Electric.

He was a U.S. Marine veteran, serving in Vietnam. He was a graduate of South High School in Cleveland, Ohio.

He was born April 6, 1951, in Cabin Creek, W.Va., to Charles and Margaret (McDaniels) Browning. They preceded him in death.

He married Diane Hall on March 21, 1981, in Auburn, and she survives.

Also surviving are two daughters and a son-in-law, Kathy Aechliman of Fort Wayne and Tammi and Chesney Van Dyke Sr. of Louisville, Ky., a son, Scott Aechliman of Fort Wayne; two grandchildren; four sisters; and three brothers.

He was preceded in death by a son, James Browning.

There will be no services or calling. Miller-Stewart Funeral Home in Middlebury is handling arrangements.

Condolences are to miller-stewartfuneralhome.com.

## Julia Burniston

WATERLOO — Julia A. Burniston, 47, of Waterloo died Saturday, Nov. 17, 2007.

She had worked at Wee Haven Industries and RISE Inc. since 1980, doing assembly and sorting of items for shipment. She was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Kendallville.

She was born Dec. 1, 1959, in Auburn to James E. and Virginia L. (Hildebrandt) Burniston. Her father died April 26, 1990, and her mother survives in Waterloo.

Also surviving are a longtime friend, Doug Phares of Auburn; four sisters, Judy Rice of Columbia City, Barbara Ordway of Hudson, Margaret Smith of Angola and Sharon Brown of Garrett; and two brothers, Shawn Burniston of Cincinnati, Ohio, and James Burniston Jr. of Kendallville.

Services will be Wednesday at 1 p.m. in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Kendallville. President Randall Hunt will officiate. Burial will be in Cedar Creek Cemetery of Garrett.

Calling will be Wednesday from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the church.

Memorials are to Thomas Funeral Home of Garrett to assist the family.

To send a condolence or sign an online register book, visit www.thomasfuneral-home.org.

## Jackie Hayward

BROOMFIELD, Colo. — Jackie Alan Hayward, 47, of Broomfield, Colo., formerly of Hudson, died Tuesday, Oct. 30, 2007.

He worked in various accounting positions throughout his career and recently worked in the warehouse distribution industry. He was employed by Eagle Direct XM in Denver as a warehouse manager until 1996.

He was a 1978 graduate of DeKalb High School and received an associate degree in accounting from International Business College. He enjoyed doing home improvements, cooking, gardening, family and friends, and the Colorado mountains, where he lived most of his adult life. Friends and family will remember him for his great sense of humor and fun-loving attitude.

He was born Dec. 29, 1959, in LaGrange to Billy Joe and Wilma Jean Hayward of Hudson. Both survive.

Also surviving are a daughter, Emilee, of Thorton, Colo.; his partner, Ralph Carpio of Broomfield; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Brenda Hayward of Van Wert, Ohio, and Marla and Tracy Kretz of Waterloo; two nephews, Jeremy Castner and John Hayward, both of Hudson; two nieces, Brandy (Kretz) Miller of Angola, and Nikki Kretz of Auburn; and many aunts, uncles, cousins, and his extended Carpio family.

Services will be Saturday at 3 p.m. at Stroh Church of God. Food will be provided and time for sharing will be from 1 to 3 p.m. at the church.

Arrangements are by Johnson Funeral Home in Hudson.

## Steve French

MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich. — Steve H. French, 58, of Mount Clemens, Mich., formerly of Angola, died Monday, Nov. 12, 2007.

Mr. French was a veteran of the U.S. Navy.

He was a graduate of Angola High School. He was a sports enthusiast who enjoyed the outdoors. He loved gospel and country music, and especially enjoyed listening to Elvis Presley.

He was born Nov. 22, 1948, in Fort Wayne to Jim and Nora Wisner. He married Virginia French on May 27, 1982, in Denver.

Mr. French is survived by his wife, Virginia; mother, Norma Wisner; daughter, Rachel McKenna; sisters, Linda Livingston and Julie Adams; mother-in-law, Marion Puffpaff; brother-in-law, Frank (Kay) Dapice; sisters-in-law, Paulette Ireland and Antoinette Dapice; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father, Jim Wisner; and sister, Alana Penland.

Services took place last week.

Memories may be shared with the family at www.faulmannwalsh.com.

## Donna Shull

FORT WAYNE — Donna J. Shull, 79, of Fort Wayne died Tuesday, Nov. 20, 2007, at the Towne House Health Center in Fort Wayne.

Born in Lafayette, she was an order processor with Navistar for 34 years, retiring in 1981.

She is survived by her children and spouses, Nancy and Rick Bay of Garrett, Catherine and Derrick Aldrich of Pleasant Lake, Scott and Susan Shull of Grapevine, Texas, and Tina and Kevin Pion of Spencerville; six grandchildren; and a sister, Treva Long of St. Francis, Wis.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Gerden J. Shull in 1994; a daughter, Mary; and two sisters and two brothers.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, 1502 E. Wallen Road, Fort Wayne, with the Rev. John Kuzmich officiating.

Calling also 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Friday at D.O. McComb & Sons Pine Valley Park Funeral Home, 1320 E. Dupont Road, and one hour prior to the service at the church.

Memorials to Heartland Hospice or Alzheimer's Association Northern Indiana Chapter, 919 E. Jefferson Blvd., Suite 1, South Bend, IN 46617.

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## Charlotte Aubrey

AUBURN — A memorial service for Charlotte A. Aubrey, 89, will be Friday at noon at the former Lochner Farm, 3245 C.R. 68, Auburn.

The Rev. James Thalacker will officiate. A lunch will follow.

A resident of West Lafayette, Charlotte Aubrey died Sunday, Aug. 19, 2007, at St. Elizabeth Medical Center in Lafayette.

She was born Sept. 5, 1917, in DeKalb County to Jay and Marie Lochner. She graduated from Auburn High School and Purdue University.

Memorials are to Grace Lutheran Church, 102 Buckingham Drive, Lafayette, IN 47909.

## Ruth Szuba

AUBURN — Ruth M. Szuba, 88, died Thursday, Nov. 22, 2007, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mrs. Szuba worked as a lab technician for many years in Pittsburgh, Pa. She was a graduate of Allegheny College in Meadsville, Pa., and a member of Auburn First United Methodist Church. She served as a secretary for Trinity Lutheran Church of Auburn from 1984 to 1999.

Mrs. Szuba

She was born March 2, 1919, in Pittsburgh to Merritt and Mary (Thompson) Kroft. They preceded her in death.

She married Robert W. Szuba on Jan. 26, 1946, in Pittsburgh. He died March 10, 1952.

Surviving are a sister and brother-in-law, Betty and Robert Carbaugh of Auburn; three nieces, Susan Moon, Jan Bundy and Kathy Vas; and a nephew, Bob Carbaugh.

She was preceded in death by a sister, Lois Jean Kroft, in 1932.

Services will be Sunday at 2 p.m. in the chapel at Auburn First United Methodist Church.

Calling will be Saturday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Memorials are to Auburn First United Methodist Church.

## Robert Graham

AUBURN — Robert H. Graham, 96, died Thursday, Nov. 22, 2007, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mr. Graham worked at the Auburn Post Office and was a former employee of Auburn Automobile Co. He served as a sergeant in the U.S. Army during World War II. He was a member of Brookside Community Church in Fort Wayne and American Legion Post 97 in Auburn.

He was born Oct. 12, 1911, in Levi, N.M., to the late William L. and Vesta (Texter) Graham.

He married Frances (Hively) Favinger on June 25, 1944, in Mineral Oils, Texas. She died Jan. 23, 2000.

Surviving are a son, James Graham of Auburn; two daughters, Judith Ann Favinger of Urbana, Ohio, and Elin Parmelee of Paw Paw, Mich.; two grandchildren, Cindy Parmelee and Katrina Parmelee; two sisters, Ruth of North Manchester and Dorothy Graham of Auburn, Wash.; and a brother, Kenneth Graham of Butler.

He was preceded in death by four brothers, James, John, Richard and William Graham, and a sister, Helen Potts.

Services will be Saturday at noon in Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Burial will be in Sparta Cemetery of Kimmell.

Calling will be Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Children First Center of Auburn.

## Carlton Rinehart

EDON, Ohio — Carlton E. Rinehart, 78, of Edon, Ohio, died at 7 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2007, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne after a brief illness.

Mr. Rinehart was a machinist and retired from Aro Corp. in Bryan, Ohio.

He was born April 9, 1929, in Angola to Earl and Osa (Sams) Rinehart.

Surviving are three daughters, Vickie Rinehart and Loretta Benner, both of Auburn, and Dr. Roberta Boyden of Eugene, Ore., two grandchildren; and a sister, Doris Neddleman of Boca Raton, Fla.

He was preceded in death by one sister.

Graveside services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. in Circle Hill Cemetery near Angola. Pastor Eric Dailey will officiate.

Calling will be tonight from 6-8 at Krill Funeral Home in Edon, Ohio.

Memorials are to a charity of the donor's choice.

Condolences may be sent and an online register may be signed at www.krillfuneralservice.com.

## Janette Pepple

AUBURN — Janette A. Pepple, 65, of Auburn died Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2007, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Pepple

Mrs. Pepple was a production worker for Kraft Foods in Kendallville for 36 years, retiring in 1998.

She was born Aug. 17, 1942, in LaGrange County to Norris D. and Dorothy (Bickel) Nichols.

She married Lynn L. Pepple on June 10, 1978, in the Maple Grove United Methodist Church in rural Corunna. He survives.

Also surviving are a daughter, Jennifer Owens of Stroh; a stepdaughter and her husband, Joy and Christopher Booth of Huntertown; a granddaughter, Janette Mullins; three stepgrandchildren, Tyler Booth, Tea Booth and C.J. Booth; a sister and brother-in-law, Joyce and Victor Sutton of Little Turkey Lake in LaGrange County; and a brother, Jack Nichols of Kendallville.

She was preceded in death by her parents, one son, Rodney Owens, and a brother, Joe Nichols.

Services will be Monday at 11 a.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. The Rev. Al Black will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-6 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to a charity of the donor's choice.

## Eli Sumner Jr.

AUBURN — Eli Sumner Jr., 54, died Thursday, Nov. 22, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Sumner

He was born in Vicco, Ky., and was a supervisor with Waterloo Aluminum Foundry for nine years.

Surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Amy and Charles Mann of Auburn and Bobbi Joe and Ron Elliott of Fremont; a son and daughter-in-law, Joey and Tammy Sumner of Auburn; nine grandchildren, Lesly Prater, Derrick Kowalski, Amanda Kinder, Andrea Mann, Tami Jo Fuller, Cristan Fuller, Jeffery Salsbury, Tristan Elliott and Deserae Elliott; three brothers, Ova Wayne of Lexington, Ky., Bud Sumner of Vicco, Ky., and Esom Sumner of Auburn and Coby and Dauny Sumner, both of Rome City; and three sisters, Ann Collins of Albion and Persie Sumner and Mary Pence, both of Garrett.

His family also is expecting a great-grandson to be born in January.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Eli and Hazel Sumner, a sister, Ora Lee Cody, and a brother, John David Sumner.

Services will be Monday at 2 p.m. in McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family.

## Clarise Tilghman

AUBURN — Clarise J. Tilghman, 78, died Thursday, Nov. 22, 2007, in Fort Wayne.

Born in Auburn, she was a waitress at Northway Inn and other Auburn restaurants for many years. She was a member of the Auburn Moose lodge and the Auburn post of the American Legion Auxiliary. She enjoyed reading and sewing.

Clarise Tilghman

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Diana and Don Meschberger of Fort Wayne; two sons and daughters-in-law, James and Linda Tilghman of Fort Wayne and Barry and Janice Tilghman of Auburn; five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren; a brother, Frederick Gee of Auburn; and a sister, Jane Koch of Sebring, Fla.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Fred and Sylvia Gee; a sister, Betty Pate; and two brothers, Charles and Wayne Gee.

Services will be Monday at 11 a.m in McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. Burial will be in Alton Cemetery at St. Joe.

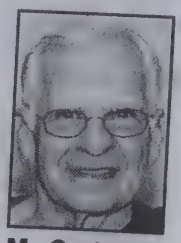
Calling will be Sunday from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. and Monday from 10-11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Riley Hospital for Children or Visiting Nurse & Hospice Home.

The EVENING STAR
November 24 2007 Auburn, Indiana

## Dale Custer

GARRETT — Dale F. Custer, 82, of Garrett died Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2007, at his home.


Mr. Custer

Mr. Custer was a farmer and co-owner of Custer Grain Co. until 1996, when he retired from full-time duty. He continued working on a part-time basis until 2004.

He was a World War II veteran, serving in the U.S. Marines.

Mr. Custer was a lifetime resident of Garrett except from 1996 to 2005, when he lived in Venice, Fla. He was a lifetime member of the Garrett post of the American Legion and the Auburn Moose lodge.

He was a member of South Venice Baptist Church and attended Living Waters Community Church in Garrett.

He served as president of the DeKalb County Planning Commission for 20 years and was a state champion tractor puller for three consecutive years.

He was born Dec. 10, 1924, in Garrett to A.J. and Sadie (Grube) Custer.

He married Mary Jean Custer, and they had two sons, Bruce and Brian.

He married Lori Dirr on June 6, 1982. She survives.

Also surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Bruce and Teresa Custer of Spencerville and Brian and Holly Custer of Garrett; a grandson, Shane Custer; three granddaughters, Shannon Day, Ivy Merriman and Angela Custer; two great-grandsons, Aidan Custer and Douglas Merriman; a sister, Ruth Ross of Maryland; three brothers and sisters-in-law, Wayne and Martha Custer, Harold and Ann Custer and Gene and Katrina Custer, all of Garrett; and a sister-in-law, Betty Custer of Garrett.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, Finley Custer, and a brother-in-law, Nelson Ross.

A memorial service will be Sunday at 6 p.m. in Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett. The Rev. William Haworth will officiate.

Calling will be Sunday from 4-6 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Humane Society.

To sign an online guestbook or send a condolence, visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

## Fredrick Brandeberry

AUBURN — Fredrick H. "Fritz" Brandeberry, 78, of Auburn and formerly of Waterloo, died Nov. 24, 2007, at Community Memorial Hospital in Hicksville, Ohio.

Mr. Brandeberry worked for the Conrail Railroad for 25 years, retiring in 1987.

He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict from July 15, 1952, to April 4, 1956.

He was a member of American Legion Post 86 of Kendallville, the Kendallville post of Veterans of Foreign Wars and Loyal Order of the Moose Lodge 1301 of Kendallville.

He was born Dec. 27, 1928, in Brimfield to Harry and Coral (Samcil) Brandeberry.

He married Alice Marie Brandeberry, who preceded him in death.

He then married Judy Baker Brandeberry. She survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are one stepson, Kim Baker of North Carolina; three stepdaughters, Deborah Bunn of Hicksville, Ohio, Lori Slentz of Waterloo, and Jill Baker of Auburn; several stepgrandchildren, several stepgreat-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his first wife and a sister, Dorothy Wilcox.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. Richard Pickard officiating. Burial will be at Corunna Cemetery with military graveside services by the Waterloo Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Calling will be from 1 to 2 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Shelter Ministries of Auburn or the DeKalb County Humane Shelter.

## Grace Biedrzycki

FORT WAYNE — Grace "Gracie" C. Biedrzycki, 100, of Fort Wayne and formerly of Auburn, died Friday, Nov. 23, 2007, at St. Anne Home in Fort Wayne.

She was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Garrett.

She was born April 9, 1907, in Auburn to Paul and Mary (Knott) Leis.

She married Joseph Biedrzycki in 1924. He died in 1929.

She then married John Biedrzycki in 1944, and he died in 1998.

Surviving are a son, Robert T. Biedrzycki of Fort Wayne; one sister, Angeline Jackson of Fort Wayne; four grandchildren, five great grandchildren and four great-great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her two husbands, five brothers and three sisters.

Services will be at 10 a.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Garrett with Father Andrew Nazareth officiating. Burial will be at Calvary Cemetery.

Calling will be one hour before the service at the church.

Memorials are to an education fund in memory of Mrs. Biedrzycki.

To sign the online guestbook or to send condolences, visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett is handling arrangements.

## Eldon Fore

NEW HAVEN — Eldon F. Fore, 79, of New Haven, died Friday, Nov. 23, 2007, at his home.

Mr. Fore retired from Tuthill Corp. in 1994 after 31 years of service.

He was a member of First Wayne Street United Methodist Church in Fort Wayne, a U.S. Army veteran and a charter member of Hoosier Warbirds in Auburn and American Legion Post 330.

Mr. Fore

Born in South Bend, he was the son of the late Frederick and Florence Fore.

Surviving are his wife, Shirley; his stepchildren and their spouses, Paul and Denise Grider of Auburn, Nancy and John Chromy of Redstone, Colo, Kathy King of Indianapolis, Stephen Leed of Bradenton, Fla., and Elizabeth Leed of Carrollton, Texas; and seven grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Gerald Fore; a sister, Marcella Conrad; a stepdaughter, Peggy Leed; and a stepson, David Leed.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at E. Harper & Son Funeral Home, 740 Indiana Hwy 930 East, New Haven, with calling from noon to 2 p.m. Burial will be in I.O.O.F. Cemetery at New Haven.

Memorials are to Hoosier Warbirds or Cancer Services of Allen County.

The EVENING STAR
November 25 2007 Auburn, Indiana

# Steve French remembered for his determination, faith

BY TIFFANY YODER
tiffanyy@kpcnews.net

MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich. — They called him the "miracle man" for enduring as many health problems as he did.

Steve French, 58, a graduate of Angola High School, had endured a number of heart problems during his lifetime. Through his health issues, Mr. French maintained what James Engle of Aurora, Colo., described as a "rugged determination."

"I remember him most for his courage and deep faith," said Engle, a retired pastor who attended a 50s-plus group at church with Mr. French and his wife. "He just kept plugging along, one day at a time."

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Steve French and his wife, Virginia, are shown this summer at their home.**

He suffered his first heart attack in 1994, while living in Denver, and had undergone numerous procedures since. After several more heart attacks, 45 angioplasties and 33 stents, Mr. French received a left ventricular assist device, LVAD, in June to act as an artificial heart and bridge until receiving a transplant. The 33 stents were believed to be a record, according to his doctors.

Before receiving the LVAD, friends and family members began drawing support from the community to help Mr. French. A benefit dinner was held to help raise money to help him and his wife, Virginia "Ginny". Friends and family knew the serious nature of the situation, and they came together to support the couple.

"When a friend's in need, you help him," said Pete Padden, a friend Mr. French met through church.

A veteran of the U.S. Navy, Mr. French was born Nov. 22, 1948, in Fort Wayne to Norma and Jim Wisner.

He married Virginia on May 27, 1982, in Denver.

A sports enthusiast, Mr. French loved the outdoors. He also enjoyed gospel and country music, though Elvis Presley held a special place in his heart.

He and his wife attended the Christ Lutheran Church in Macomb County, Mich.

## Donna Reigle

ARLINGTON, Ohio — Donna Mae Reigle, 87, of Arlington, Ohio, died Sunday, Nov. 25, 2007, at 6:45 a.m. at the Good Samaritan Center in Arlington.

Mrs. Reigle

Mrs. Reigle was a waitress for many years at Stella's Restaurant in Arlington. She was a member of Arlington United Methodist Church and a former Sunday school teacher. She enjoyed writing songs and poetry and reading the Bible and library books. She especially loved her family, neighbors and pets. She was a graduate of Wharton High School.

She was born Aug. 6, 1920, in Wharton, Ohio, to Kenneth and Winifred (Krider) Long. They preceded her in death.

She married Charles E. Reigle on Aug. 15, 1940. He died Sept. 30, 1983.

Surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Beverly L. and Herschel Erwin of Auburn and Carol and Raymond Robinson of Findlay, Ohio; two sons and a daughter-in-law, Edward E. and Linda Reigle of Findlay and Frederick E. Reigle of Alger, Ohio; 14 grandchildren; two stepgrandchildren; a special granddaughter next door; 21 great-grandchildren; and one stepgreat-grandchild.

She was preceded in death by her brothers, Kenneth, Charles, V. "Chick" and Wesley Long.

Services will be Tuesday at 1 p.m. in Crates Funeral Home, 620 N. Main St., Arlington.

Calling wil be Tuesday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Arlington United Methodist Church.

Condolences may be sent at www.coldencrates.com.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** *is being reprinted with a correction.*

## Grace Biedrzycki

FORT WAYNE — Grace "Gracie" C. Biedrzycki, 100, of Fort Wayne and formerly of Auburn, died Friday, Nov. 23, 2007, at St. Anne Home in Fort Wayne.

She was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Garrett.

She was born April 9, 1907, in Auburn to Paul and Mary (Knott) Leis.

She married Joseph Biedrzycki in 1924. He died in 1929.

She then married John Biedrzycki in 1944, and he died in 1998.

Surviving are a son, Robert T. Biedrzycki of Fort Wayne; one sister, Angeline Jackson of Fort Wayne; four grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her two husbands, five brothers and three sisters.

Services were today at 10 a.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Garrett with Father Andrew Nazareth officiating. Burial was at Calvary Cemetery.

Memorials are to an education fund in memory of Mrs. Biedrzycki.

To sign an online guestbook or to send condolences, visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

Thomas Funeral Home in Garrett handled arrangements.

## Frances Mason

BUTLER — Frances M. Mason, 89, of Butler died Sunday, Nov. 25, 2007, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Mason

Mrs. Mason was a homemaker. She attended New Hope Christian Center in Waterloo and was a member of the Wittenberg Guild.

She was born Nov. 17, 1918, in Butler to Clarence and Rosella (Hug) Camp. They preceded her in death.

She married Thurman W. Mason on March 14, 1942, in Payne, Ohio. He died May 27, 1997.

Surviving are a son, Dennis Wayne Mason of Butler; three daughters, Doris Jean Hoffer of Bluffton, Carma Lou Collins of Butler and Charlene Faye Knoblauch of Angola; 16 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren; and eight great-great-grandchildren; and three sisters, Eileen Word and Dorothy Mavis, both of Edgerton, Ohio, and Mabel Osborne of Fort Wayne.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Russell Camp, and two sisters, Marjorie Vondran and Mary Alice Olds.

Services will be Thursday at 11 a.m. at New Hope Christian Center of Waterloo. The Rev. Ralph Diehl will officiate. Burial will be in Butler Cemetery.

Calling will be Wednesday from 2-8 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, and Thursday from 10-11 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to the church, the Diabetes Association or the DeKalb County Heart Association.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** *is being reprinted to list an additional surviving relative.*

## Clarise Tilghman

AUBURN — Clarise J. Tilghman, 78, died Thursday, Nov. 22, 2007, in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Tilghman

Born in Auburn, she was a waitress at Northway Inn and other Auburn restaurants for many years. She was a member of the Auburn Moose lodge and the Auburn post of the American Legion Auxiliary. She enjoyed reading and sewing.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Diana and Don Meschberger of Fort Wayne; two sons and daughters-in-law, James and Linda Tilghman of Fort Wayne and Barry and Janice Tilghman of Auburn; five grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren; a brother, Frederick Gee of Auburn; and a sister, Jane Koch of Sebring, Fla.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Harold E. Tilghman, who died in 1998; her parents, Fred and Sylvia Gee; a sister, Betty Pate; and two brothers, Charles and Wayne Gee.

Services were Monday at 11 a.m in McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. Burial was in Alton Cemetery at St. Joe.

Memorials are to Riley Hospital for Children or Visiting Nurse & Hospice Home.

## Betty Dunn

AUBURN — Betty M. Dunn, 85, died Monday, Nov. 26, 2007, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mrs. Dunn worked at Messenger Corp. in Auburn, retiring in 1974. She was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn.

She was born Sept. 15, 1922, in Garrett to Ralph and Geraldine (Johnson) Vallance. They preceded her in death.

She married Victor Dunn on July 25, 1942, in Fort Wayne. He died Jan. 26, 1993.

Surviving are three sons and two daughters-in-law, Richard Dunn of Butler, Max and Kristi Dunn of Helmer and Steve and Deanna Dunn of Waterloo; a daughter and son-in-law, LuAnn and Kevin Gustason of Evergreen, Colo.; five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren; and a brother, John Smith of Florida.

She was preceded in death by three brothrs, Bill Vallance, Albert Smith and David Sterling, and a grandson, Rod Dunn.

Services will be Friday at 10 a.m. at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 500 E. Seventh St., Auburn, with Father Babasino Fernandez officiating. Burial will be in Auburn Catholic Cemetery.

Calling will be Thursday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, and Friday from 9-10 a.m. at the church. A rosary service will begin at 4 p.m. Thursday in the funeral home.

Memorials are to St. Martin's Soup Kitchen or to Masses at the church.

## Dorsey Speer

AUBURN — Dorsey E. Speer, 83, of Auburn died Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2007, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mr. Speer

Mr. Speer worked for Dilgard and Cline Furniture Store and Funeral Home for 24 years, for Brand Mobile Home Sales in Waterloo, Rohm Chevrolet, Ben Davis Chevrolet and then for Feller Furniture Store and Funeral Home until he retired in 1997.

Mr. Speer served as a member of the Auburn City Council for 16 years. He served during World War II in the U.S. Navy. He was a member of Auburn First United Methodist Church and was very active in the Salvation Army. He was a former member of the Auburn Moose Lodge and the Auburn Rotary Club, a past president of the Auburn Jaycees and a member of the Royal Order of the Garter and American Legion Post 97 in Auburn.

He was born Aug. 2, 1924, in Auburn to Trevor and Alice (Webster) Speer. They preceded him in death.

He married Ruth Emerson on Dec. 25, 1946. She died Jan. 22, 2001.

Surviving are a son, Dorsey E. "Skip" Speer Jr. of Auburn; two daughters and sons-in-law, Jerilyn "Jeri" and Wally Walburn of Ely, Minn., and Deborah and Greg McClure of Auburn; two sisters, Marma LaRowe of Garrett and Dolene Fisher of Angola; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Leland Speer.

Services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. in Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Jess Jessup and the Rev. Ted Jansen officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be Friday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Alzheimer's Association.

## Catherine Fraley

HUDSON — Catherine A. "Cathy" Fraley, 34, of Hudson died Monday, Nov. 26, 2007, in Stroh.

Ms. Fraley worked at Tenneco in Angola.

She was born Oct. 13, 1973, in Coldwater, Mich., to Louie Fraley and Patricia (Krontz) Shaw. Her mother survives in Orland.

She is also survived by two children, Austin and Brittany; a stepfather, Gary Shaw of Orland; four brothers and sisters-in-law, Ronald and Lourie Fraley of Azle, Texas, Martin and Jane Fraley of Kendallville; Anthony "Tony" and Carol Fraley of Waterloo, and Lou and Sheila Fraley of Orland; a sister and brother-in-law, Jeanette and Bill Kelley of Ashley; and two stepsisters and a spouse, Stacey and Chris Polling, and Beth Patrick, all of Waterloo.

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. at H.E. Johnson & Sons Funeral Home in Angola. Burial will be in Wright Cemetery.

Calling will be Thursday from 4 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the children of Cathy Fraley, care of Jeanette and Bill Kelley.

Condolences may be left at www.hejohnsonfh.com.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** *is being reprinted with additional information.*

## Eli Sumner Jr.

AUBURN — Eli Sumner Jr., 54, died Thursday, Nov. 22, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

He was born in Vicco, Ky., and was a supervisor with Waterloo Aluminum Foundry for nine years.

Mr. Sumner

Surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Amy and Charles Mann of Auburn and Bobbi Joe and Ron Elliott of Fremont; a son and daughter-in-law, Joey and Tammy Sumner of Auburn; nine grandchildren, Lesly Prater, Derrick Kowalski, Amanda Kinder, Andrea Mann, Tami Jo Fuller, Cristan Fuller, Jeffery Salsbury, Tristan Elliott and Deserae Elliott; five brothers, Ova Wayne of Lexington, Ky., Bud Sumner of Vicco, Ky., and Esom Sumner of Auburn and Coby and Dauny Sumner, both of Rome City; and three sisters, Ann Collins of Albion and Persie Sumner and Mary Pence, both of Garrett.

He was expecting a great-grandson to be born in January.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Eli and Hazel Sumner, a sister, Ora Lee Cody, and a brother, John David Sumner.

Services were Monday at McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, with the Rev. Thomas Mann officiating. Burial was in Waterloo Cemetery.

Memorials are to the family.

## William Cassady Jr.

SPENCER — William Haxton Cassady Jr., 85, of New Albany and formerly of Spencer, died at his home Thursday, Nov. 22, 2007.

Mr. Cassady was born in Spencer to William Haxton and Marian (Bixler) Cassady. He attended Purdue University, where he was president of Phi Delta Theta Fraternity. He graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering.

He received his commission in the U.S. Navy at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. He served in the Naval Submarine Service during World War II aboard the USS Archerfish.

In 1982, he retired from Northern Indiana Fuel & Light Co. in Auburn. He then attended Sullivan University and graduated summa cum laude as a paralegal and worked for the law firm of Wyatt, Tarrant, & Combs in Louisville, Ky. He was an active volunteer at Northeastern Center and Youth for Christ in Auburn and taught GED students at Providence House in New Albany.

Surviving are his wife of 21 years, Jama Sue Cassady; three sons and daughters-in-law Scott and Jane Cassady of Athens, Ga., William and Jackie Cassady of Carrollton, Texas, and Greg and Pam Cassady of Auburnl; a stepson and his wife, Tracy and Karen Dietrich of Roanoke Rapids, N.C.; two stepdaughters Kimberly Sue Dietrich of Auburn and Kamala Kay Dietrich of New Albany; three granddaughters, five grandsons, two great-granddaughters, three great-grandsons, seven stepchildren, and a sister and brother-in-law, Mary Ann and Paul Crommelin of Willow Street, Pa.

He was preceded in death by a grandson, Billy.

A memorial service will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 22, at the West & Parrish & Pedigo Funeral Home in Spencer. The Rev. Eric Erickson will officiate. Burial will follow at Riverside Cemetery.

The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service.

Memorials are to the American Parkinson Disease Association or the Kidney Foundation.

Online condolences may be sent to Mr. Cassady's family at www.westparrish-pedigo.com.

## Lloyd Lyon

BUTLER — Lloyd M. Lyon, 78, formerly of Milford died Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2007, at Laurels of DeKalb Rehabilitation Center in Butler, where he had been a resident since June.

He was a career truck driver prior to retirement and a life-long racing enthusiast.

Mr. Lyon was born on June 10, 1929, to Bessie and Melvin Lyon, who preceded him in death.

He is survived by three daughters, Patricia Griffey and Deborah Donahue of Elkhart, and Angie Lyon of Fremont; two sons, Greg Lyon of Edon, Ohio, and Jimmy Lyon, formerly of the Dayton, Ohio, area; three stepsons, David Winer of Dundee, Fla., David Shaw of Indianapolis and Robert Shaw of Angola; 14 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

He was also preceded in death by an infant son, Gary Lyon in 1964.

A memorial service will be held in January. Cremation has been arranged by Johnson Funeral Home in Butler.

Memorials are to local Big Brothers Big Sisters organizations or to www.fallenheroes-fund.org.

## Marcile Uhl

AVILLA — Marcile Elaine Uhl, 77, of Avilla died Wednesday, Nov. 28, 2007, at home with her family by her side.

Mrs. Uhl was a homemaker and served as an instructional assistant at Avilla Elementary School from 1972 to 2002.

She graduated from Auburn High School in 1947.

Mrs. Uhl was a member of Mt. Pleasant Lutheran Church in Kendallville.

Mrs. Uhl loved watching all sports especially those that her grandchildren participated in. She looked forward each year to volunteering at the Noble County Community Fair.

She enjoyed collecting Uhl Pottery and she spent many mornings with friends at the coffee shop.

She was born in Auburn on Dec. 18, 1929, to Carl Henry and Margaret C. (Latson) Haynes. She married Robert Lynn Uhl on May 31, 1950, at the St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Auburn. He died June 25, 1989.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Rodney and Barbara Uhl of Batesville, Miss., and Scott and Rose Uhl of Avilla; a daughter and son-in-law, Tana and Dan Brown of LaOtto; two sisters, Donna and Max Reynolds of Auburn and Judy and Jack Kruse of Kent, Ohio; 10 grandchildren and their spouses, Angie and Billy Stephenson, Shelby and Matt Liebing, Sarina and Josh Schroeder, Shay and Luke Amstutz, Andy Uhl, Michelle and Randy Krock, Chad and Jennifer Honaker, Zach Honaker, Toni Soncrant and Chuck Soncrant; 14 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

She was also preceded in death by her parents and a sister, Charlotte May Haynes.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Sunday at Mt. Pleasant Lutheran Church, Kendallville, with the Rev. Susan Socha officiating. Burial will be at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery in Kendallville.

Calling will be from 2-8 p.m. Saturday at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville and one hour prior to services Sunday at the church.

Memorials are to Mt. Pleasant Lutheran Church.

View a video tribute or send condolences to the family at www.hitefuneralhome.com.

## Clarence Kryder

WATERLOO — Clarence Alfred Kryder, 78, died Wednesday, Nov. 28, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Kryder was a farmer. He worked at Dana Corp. in Auburn for 32 1/2 years, retiring in 1990. He was a member of Garrett Masonic Lodge 537. He served with the military police in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict.

He was born May 3, 1929, in Fort Wayne to Clarence and Minerva (Bueker) Kryder. They preceded him in death.

He married Ruth Ann Ketel on April 11, 1959, in the Waterloo United Methodist Church. She survives.

Also surviving are three sons and daughters-in-law, Don and Penny Kryder of Butler, Walt and Tyann Kryder of Waterlo and Terry and Tanya Kryder of Corunna; and three grandchildren, Daniel Kryder, Ashlie Kryder and Jennifer Johnson.

Services will be Tuesday at 11 a.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery.

Calling will be Monday from 4-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Heart Association.

## John Krontz

WATERLOO — John "Otto" Dale Krontz, 52, died Thursday, Nov. 29, 2007, at his home in Waterloo.

Mr. Krontz

Mr. Krontz worked for the Waterloo Street Department, retiring in 1997. He was a fan of IU and NASCAR and loved being outdoors and spending time around campfires. He enjoyed his Otto Shack, but his grandson was the light of his life.

He was born June 1, 1955, in Auburn. His mother, Betty (Pope) Krontz preceded him in death. His father and stepmother, Samuel and Marie Krontz, survive in Auburn.

He married Cara Wallace on April 16, 1983, in Auburn. She survives.

Also surviving are a daughter, Meranda Hunter of Waterloo; a grandson, James John "JJ" Hunter; two sisters and brothers-in-law, Connie and Robert Brown of Auburn and Patty and Jim Brand of Waterloo; and two brothers and a sister-in-law, Danny and Betty Krontz of Waterloo and David Krontz of Garrett.

Services will be Monday at 11 a.m in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-6 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** *is being republished with additional information.*

## John Krontz

WATERLOO — John "Otto" Dale Krontz, 52, died Thursday, Nov. 29, 2007, at his home in Waterloo.

Mr. Krontz

Mr. Krontz worked for the Waterloo Street Department, retiring in 1997. He was a fan of IU and NASCAR and loved being outdoors and spending time around campfires. He enjoyed his Otto Shack, but his grandson was the light of his life.

He was born June 1, 1955, in Auburn. His mother, Betty (Pope) Krontz preceded him in death. His father and stepmother, Samuel and Marie Krontz, survive in Auburn.

He married Cara Wallace on April 16, 1983, in Auburn. She survives.

Also surviving are a daughter, Meranda Hunter of Waterloo; a grandson, James John "JJ" Hunter; two sisters and brothers-in-law, Connie and Robert Brown of Auburn and Patty and Jim Brand of Waterloo; and two brothers and a sister-in-law, Danny and Betty Krontz of Waterloo and David Krontz of Garrett.

Services will be Monday at 11 a.m in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with Pastor Jerome Pope of North Carolina officiating. Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-6 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family.

## Harley Cooper

AUBURN — Harley Lee Cooper, 70, of Auburn, died Thursday, Nov. 29, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Cooper

Mr. Cooper worked at Foley Pattern in Auburn for 31 years, retiring in 1999.

He was born April 4, 1937, in Pennington Gap, Va., to Hobert and Ollie (Green) Cooper. They preceded him in death.

He married Nila May Miles on May 14, 1956, in Sneedville, Tenn., and she survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are three sons and a daughter-in-law, Harley Lee Jr. and Sonja Cooper, Harold Eugene Cooper and Johnny Wayne Cooper, all of Auburn; a daughter and son-in-law, Tammy Lynn and Bill Best of Auburn; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; four sisters, Marie Masterson of Mooresville, Lexie Weaver of Seymour, Tenn., Cathlene Hatton of Greenwood and Sandra Kay Graves of Indianapolis; and a brother, Stanly Cooper of Indianapolis.

He was preceded in death by three brothers, Harold, Franklin and James Cooper, and a sister, Sue Burnette.

Services will be Monday at 1 p.m. in Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with Pastor Lane Andrews officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

The EVENING STAR
December 2 2007 Auburn, Indiana

# Strong, handsome farmer was larger than life

BY VIV ROSSWURM
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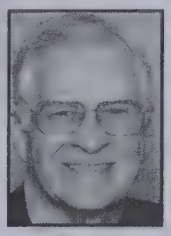
GARRETT — Dale Custer of Garrett was always competitive and strong, from a young age until he died at the age of 82 on Nov. 21 at his home, remembers his brother Wayne Custer, also of Garrett.


Mr. Custer

Dale Custer was born in the bedroom of his father and mother — A.J. and Sadie (Grube) Custer — on their farm in rural Garrett, His two sons, Bruce and Brian Custer, later would become the third generation of farmers — a source of pride to Dale, his son Brian said.

Dale Custer married Mary Jean Custer and they had two sons, Bruce and Brian. He later married Lori Dirr in 1982, and had six grandchildren when he died.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Dale Custer, left, relaxes with fellow Marines on a leave in New York City. He served in the Marine Corps at the end of World War II and was stationed in China.**

In the 1960s, Dale and his brothers — Wayne, Harold, Gene and Finley — decided to start a grainery so they would have the means to feed the beef cattle they raised, Wayne Custer said. Their lone sister, Ruth Ross of Maryland, is an ordained minister and the only sibling who has not been involved in farming and/or the grainery.

That grainery, Custer Grain Co., became a family business in 1967, and celebrated its 40th anniversary this fall.

Dale Custer continued to farm, but retired from full-time duty in 1996. He continued working on a part-time basis until 2004, stopping by the grainery on almost a daily basis, according to son Brian. "He just couldn't stay away," Brian Custer said.

In the 1950s, Dale Custer's competitive edge won him three consecutive state tractor-pulling championships. "No one had ever won three in a row," his brother, Wayne, said.

Although his dad never attended college, Brian Custer said he had amazing abilities when it came to mechanical engineering.

"He was way ahead of his time when he won the pulling championships, especially with the modifications he had on his tractors," Brian Custer said. After he won the third championship, the state fair officials in Indianapolis asked him not to come back for a while "to give others a chance to win," Brian Custer said.

Reportedly, Dale Custer fired back at the officials, "If I can't be innovative, what's the point?"

Katrina Custer, who is married to Dale's brother, Gene, said the Custer brothers always were very involved in the county fairs and tractor pulls. And, she said, they made quite an impression.

"They were such handsome, big strong men," Katrina Custer said, "and up there on those tractors, they were bigger than life."

When Dale Custer's number came up for the draft at the end of World War II, he chose to join the U.S. Marine Corps and served in China.

"He was a boxer in the Marine Corps and was thought well of by his commanding officers," said Wayne Custer.

He was a lifetime resident of Garrett except from 1996 to 2005, when he lived in Venice, Fla. His brother, Harold, also had retired and lived in Florida. The two brothers had become very close in the past 15 years, Harold Custer said.

"He was always real strong," said Harold Custer. When they were young children and Dale was about 6 years old, another older brother came down with rheumatic fever and Dale would pull that brother all around the farm in his Western Flyer wagon, Harold said, transporting the brother until he regained his strength.

While living in Garrett, Dale Custer remained active in 4-H and farming events and served as president of the DeKalb County Planning Commission for 20 years.

In high school, Dale was very good in sports, Wayne Custer said.

"We went hunting once, and Dale accidentally shot himself in the arm and split the muscle in two pieces, but that did not keep him from continuing to playing to play football," Wayne Custer said. "Even though it took a long time for it to heal, it didn't slow him down."

Many of the people who paid tribute to Dale Custer at his memorial service were former or current employees, Brian Custer said.

"He was not only their boss, but he became a friend," Brian Custer said. "He was someone that people could relate and talk to."

## Randall Friend

BUTLER — Randall Eugene Friend, 53, of Butler died Friday, Nov. 30, 2007, at Parkview North Hospital in Fort Wayne.

He worked at HerMack Inc. in Auburn and was a member of Auburn First United Methodist Church.

Born Nov. 3, 1954, in Garrett, he was the son of Donald and LeAnna (Freeze) Friend. They survive in Auburn. He married Shirley May Forrest on June 9, 2001, in Auburn. She survives.

Mr. Friend

Also surviving are a son, Adam Friend of Fort Wayne; two stepsons and their spouses, Frank Shelton of Sturgis, Mich., and William and Casey Forrest of Fremont; five stepgrandchildren, Gage Forrest, Phoebe Shelton, Brandan Shelton, Breanna Shelton and Tyler Shelton; a sister and brother-in-law, Cynthia and Bill Troop of Fort Wayne; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Michael and Maureen Friend and Jerry and Lori Friend, all of Auburn; three sisters-in-law and their spouses, Donna and Tommy Keene of Butler; Billie Champions of Kendallville, and Ruby Bloomer of Garrett; and his mother-in-law, Helen Bloomer of Auburn.

A sister, Kathleen Friend, preceded him in death.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery, Auburn.

Calling will be from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Monday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society or Parkview Noble Hospice.

## Thomas Kocks

ST. JOE — Thomas A. Kocks, 59, of St. Joe died Thursday, Nov. 29, 2007, at his home.

He was the owner/operator of Kocks Cabinet Installation for 25 years.

He was a U.S. Army veteran, a past commander of New Haven Post 330 and a member of Leo Post 409.

He was born to Robert and Elizabeth Kocks. They preceded him in death.

Surviving are three daughters and two sons-in-law, Angela Kocks of New Haven, Renee and Brian Hubert of Huntertown and Lisa and Michael Morvillus of New Haven; a son, Shane Kocks of Savannah, Ga.; companion Marcia Bonta of St. Joe; 10 grandchildren; former spouse Carol Kocks of Angola; four sisters and brothers-in-law, Judy and Eugene Habej of Fort Wayne, Theresa and Paul Gilley of Carmel, Lisa and Steve Ottenweller of New Haven and Ann and Russell Stanski of Leo; two brothers and a sister-in-law, Donald Kocks, and Joseph and Suzanne Kocks, all of New Haven; three stepchildren, Julie and Todd Lowden, and Joseph Bonta, all of Spencerville, and Lisa Bonta of Avilla.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at D.O. McComb & Sons Lakeside Park Funeral Home in Fort Wayne. Calling will be Monday from 5 to 9 at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Kocks Family Memorial Fund.

## Miles Ringenberg

AUBURN — Miles E. "Mike" Ringenberg, 86, of Auburn died Saturday, Dec. 1, 2007, at Wesley Health Care in Auburn.

Mr. Ringenberg

For 25 years, he and his wife owned and operated Russell's Point Resort on Hamilton Lake. He also drove a school bus for Hamilton Community Schools for 12 years. He served his country during World War II in the U.S. Navy. He was a member of the Auburn Presbyterian Church.

He was born Nov. 7, 1921, in Woodburn to Samuel and Clara (Knoblaugh) Ringenberg.

He married Thelma N. Saxer on June 27, 1948, in Garrett. She survives.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, James M. and Beth Ringenberg of Andrews, N.C.; a daughter, Jo Ellen Ringenberg Curry of Louisville, Ky.; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Ilean McLaughlin of Winterhaven, Fla., and Betty and Herbert Weisshart of Las Vegas, Nev.; a brother and sister-in-law, Dr. Everett and Joyce Ringenberg of Plymouth; four grandchildren, Christa Curry, Kimberly Curry, James Michael Ringenberg and Susan Ringenberg; eight stepgrandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Dr. Quinten Ringenberg; and a sister, Charlotte Dasher.

Services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. in the Auburn Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Nancy Becker will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Wednesday from 10-11 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to the church.

Feller and Clark Funeral Home of Auburn is handling arrangements.

## Josephine McWilliams

GARRETT — Josephine A. McWilliams, 79, of Garrett died Saturday, Dec. 1, 2007 at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mrs. McWilliams formerly lived in Wolcottville and DeLand, Fla. She was a homemaker.

She was born Aug. 11, 1928, in Garrett, to Hudson and Beatrice P. (Morris) Hays. They preceded her in death.

On Sept. 3, 1949, in Garrett, she married Robert L. McWilliams. He died Nov. 11, 1999.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Peggy and Michael Egts of Fort Wayne; two sisters, Jeannette Jacob of Kendallville and Nancy Treesh of Garrett; and three brothers, William Hays and Hudson Hays, both of Garrett, and Richard Hays of Eustice, Fla.

There will be no service or calling.

A memorial service will be held at a later date at Christian Union Cemetery of Garrett.

Thomas Funeral Home of Garrett is handling arrangements.

Condolences may be sent and an on-line guest book may be signed at www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

## Joan Rowden

AUBURN — Joan Marie Rowden, 70, of Auburn died Sunday, Dec. 2, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mrs. Rowden

She worked at Dana Corp. in Auburn, retiring in September 2003. She attended Auburn First United Methodist Church.

She was born Feb. 26, 1937, in Defiance, Ohio, to Russell and Faye (Doster) Feeney. They preceded her in death.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, David and Dawn Bice of Bremen; a daughter and son-in-law, Nancy and Mark Bope of Moyock, N.C.; three grandchildren, Chase Bice, Shantel Bice and Jerika Bope; and three brothers and two sisters-in-law, Carl and Joann Feeney of Defiance, Ohio, Delbert and Judy Feeney of Falcon, Mo., and Jerry Feeney of Oakwood, Ohio.

Services will be Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. in Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. The Rev. Ted Jansen will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Tuesday from 1 to 3:30 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to DeKalb Memorial Hospital or the American Cancer Society.

## Deloris Inlow

ST. JOE — Deloris K. "Bob" Inlow, 83, died at 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 2, 2007, at her daughter's home in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Inlow

Mrs. Inlow retired after 25 years of service from General Electric in Fort Wayne, where she was in the ELEX Club and the Quarter Century Club.

She was a graduate of St. Joe High School and a member of Coburn Corners Church of Christ in St. Joe, where she served as the church secretary for more than 20 years.

She was born Feb. 5, 1924, in Newville Township to Lloyd and Thelma (Benninghoff) Keener.

She married Arden "Tim" Inlow on May 29, 1942, in Butler. He died in 1997.

Surviving are three daughters and two sons-in-law, Judy and Richard Seiwert of Tuscon, Ariz., Robin Inlow of Fort Wayne and Anita and Tom Schroeder of Hamilton; three grandchildren, Joel, Tiffany and Lindsay Schroeder; a sister, Shirley Fritz of Hicksville, Ohio; and a brother, Jerry Keener of Newville.

She was preceded in death by her husband and a sister, Gladys Hart.

Services will be Wednesday at 1 p.m. at the Coburn Corners Church of Christ in rural St. Joe, with Doug Holley and Brian Wilcox officiating. Burial will be in Newville Cemetery.

Calling will be today from 3-5 and 6–8 p.m. at Smith & Brown Funeral Home in Hicksville, Ohio, and Wednesday from noon to 1 p.m. at the church.

Memorials are to Alzheimer's Association of Allen County or Visiting Nurse & Hospice Home of Fort Wayne.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** is *being reprinted with corrections.*

## Joan Rowden

AUBURN — Joan Marie Rowden, 70, of Auburn died Sunday, Dec. 2, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mrs. Rowden

She worked at Dana Corp. in Churubusco, retiring in September 2003. She attended Auburn First United Methodist Church.

She was born Feb. 26, 1937 in Defiance, Ohio, to Russell and Faye (Doster) Feeney. They preceded her in death.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, David and Dawn Bice of Bremen; a daughter and son-in-law, Nancy and Mark Bope of Moyock, N.C.; three grandchildren, Chase Bice, Shantel Bice and Jerika Bope; and three brothers and two sisters-in-law, Carl and Joann Feeney of Defiance, Ohio, Delbert and Judy Feeney of Falcon, Mo., and Jerry Feeney of Oakwood, Ohio.

Services will be today at 3:30 p.m. in Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. The Rev. Ted Jansen will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be today from 1 to 3:30 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to DeKalb Memorial Hospice or the American Cancer Society.

## Thurman Trader

MERRIAM — Thurman J. "Joe" Trader, 51, of Merriam, died at 8:40 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1, 2007, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne, where he was admitted on Friday. He had been in failing health since August.

Mr. Trader had live in Merriam since September 1999.

He had been employed with General Motors Corp. since 1978. He lived in the Chicago area, later transferring to Janesville, Wis., for two years and then to Fort Wayne.

Mr. Trader completed high school in Chicago and graduated from the skilled trade school at Ivy Tech in Fort Wayne.

He was born Sept. 8, 1956, in Chicago to Thurman C. and Helen B. (Ciba) Trader. He married Pamela A. Myers on Oct. 17, 1998. She survives.

Also surviving are a stepson, Robert and Ryane Wilcox of Garrett; three stepgrandchildren, Devin, Taylor and Morgan; a brother, Andrew and Bertie Trader of Buncombe, Ill.; and two sisters, Patricia Pezel and Barbara and Antonio Hernandez, both of Chicago.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Helen Anselman; and a brother-in-law, Frank Pezel.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at St. Paul of the Cross Catholic Church, 315 S. Line St., Columbia City, with Father Larry Kramer officiating. Burial will be in Christian Chapel Cemetery at Merriam.

Calling will be from noon to 3 p.m. and 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at Smith & Sons Funeral Home, Columbia City, and one hour prior to services Thursday at the church.

Memorials are to the Humane Society of Whitley County.

## Alva Grogg

AUBURN — Alva S. Grogg, 83, of Auburn died Monday, Dec. 3, 2007, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mr. Grogg

He was the founder and co-owner of Grogg Standard Service in Auburn and operated the business for 37 years, retiring in 1984.

He served in Guam with the U.S. Navy during World War II and was a pharmacist's mate in the fleet hospital. He participated in the Library of Congress Veterans History Project in Washington, D.C.

He attended St. Mark's Lutheran Church and was a member of DeKalb Masonic Lodge 213 and American Legion Post 97 of Auburn.

He coached Little League baseball in Auburn for nine years and after he finished coaching, he served on the Auburn youth baseball board. He was inducted into the Northeast Indiana Little League Baseball Hall of Fame of Coaches for the numerous years when he had champion teams. He also sponsored little league basketball in Auburn. He loved Indiana University basketball and after he retired, he enjoyed playing golf.

He was born June 15, 1924, in Auburn to Alva F. and Ada (Smurr) Grogg. They preceded him in death.

He married Ruth L. Mitchner on Jan. 18, 1947. She survives in Auburn.

Also surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Tim and Mary Ann Grogg of Columbus, Ind., and Ted and Mary Grogg of Evansville; two daughters and sons-in-law, Tara and Augie Agosti of Sylvania, Ohio, and Tami and Chad Bullock of Bristol; seven grandchildren, Heidi Grogg, Heather and Chris Means, Mitch Grogg, Rachel Grogg, Ali Bullock, Corbin Bullock and Megan Bullock; and two sisters and a brother-in-law, Ruth and Bob George of Indianapolis and Bess Mochamer of Elkhart.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Edward Grogg and Edgar Grogg.

Services will be Thursday at 11:30 a.m. in Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. The Rev. Ted Jansen will officiate. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Calling will be Wednesday from 3-7 p.m. and Thursday from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Riley Hospital for Children or the Children First Center of Auburn.

## Keith Orewiler

AUBURN — Keith R. Orewiler, 95, of Auburn died at 8:10 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2, 2007, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mr. Orewiler was retired from the Indiana Department of Transportation. He also had worked for the Angola Police Department for 25 years.

He was a lifetime area resident.

Mr. Orewiler was a former member of the Angola American Legion Post. He enjoyed horse racing, auto racing and his association with the police department.

He was born Oct. 1, 1912, in Steuben County to Roy and Nellie (Maxton) Orewiler.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Marsha and John Liechty of Auburn; two sons, Dean Orewiler and his fiancee, Diane Avery, of Kendallville and Larry Orewiler and his companion, Lorie Knight, of Auburn; and three grandchildren, Arri and Ian Orewiler of Kendallville and James Orewiler of Wisconsin.

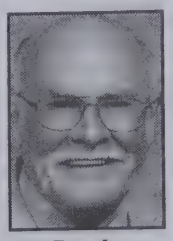
He was preceded in death by a brother, Russell Orewiler.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Brazzell Funeral Home, Avilla Chapel. Burial will be in South Scott Cemetery in Steuben County.

Calling will be one hour prior to services Thursday at the funeral home.

## Jack Duvé

WOLCOTTVILLE — Jack C. Duvé, 79, of Wolcottville died at 5:06 p.m. Monday, Dec. 3, 2007, in Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne. He has been a patient in the hospital since Aug. 30.


Mr. Duvé

A lifetime area resident, Mr. Duvé had been a truck driver with North American Freight Lines in Fort Wayne for many years. He later was in sales. He was also an artist and enjoyed making sculptures.

He attended Wolcottville United Methodist Church.

Mr. Duvé enjoyed water sports, playing poker and loved being a grandpa.

Mr. Duvé was a U.S. Navy veteran, serving from 1945 to 1948. He was stationed on the USS Valley Forge and sailed around the world.

He was a member of VFW Post 2749 in Kendallville and Rome City American Legion Post 381.

He was born Dec. 17, 1927, in Kendallville to Walter and Maude (Hendricks) Duvé. He married Jane (Wilson) Whitehair in Wolcottville on May 14, 1987. She survives in Wolcottville.

Also surviving are a daughter, Jill Meyer of LaOtto; a stepdaughter and her husband, Wanda and Marion Landers of Pretty Lake; two sons, Brad Duvé of LaOtto and Hank Duvé of Auburn; two stepsons and their wives, Sam and Vickie Bateman of Columbus, Ind., and Don and Melanie Bateman of Wolcottville; six grandchildren, Matthew Duvé, Christine Duvé, Tana Duvé, Ben Meyer, Andrew Meyer and Nathan Meyer; 10 stepgrandchildren, Curt Landers, Robin Todd, Jack Landers, Chris Bateman, Heather Bateman, Chad Bateman, Kirk Bateman, Kristin Martin, Brent Bateman and Ryan Bateman; five great-grandchildren; 13 stepgreat-grandchildren; and a sister-in-law, Glendys Thomas of St. Petersburg, Fla.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, George Duvé; and two sisters, Jane Duvé, who was his twin and died at birth, and Marjorie Duvé.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday at Young Family Funeral Home, Wolcottville Chapel, S.R. 9 North, Wolcottville, with the Rev. Mike McKinney of Rome City United Methodist Church officiating. Burial will be in Woodland Cemetery, Wolcottville. Pallbearers will be Ben Meyer, Andrew Meyer, Nathan Meyer, Chris Bateman, Chad Bateman and Curt Landers.

Military graveside services will be conducted by Rome City American Legion Post 381.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Lions Eye Bank.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.youngfamilyfuneral-home.com.

## Kenneth Zellers

AUBURN — Kenneth W. Zellers, 88, of Auburn died Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2007, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mr. Zellers

Mr. Zellers was a brakeman with the B&O Railroad for 39 years, retiring in 1978.

He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II and a 62-year member of American Legion Post 97 in Auburn. He participated in the Library of Congress Veterans History Project in Washington, D.C., and loved golf and sports.

He was born in Willard, Ohio, to George and Thelma Zellers. They preceded him in death.

Surviving are two sons, Kenneth "Skip" and Douglas Zellers, both of Auburn; a stepson, Fred Mock of Willard, Ohio; three grandchildren, Scott Zellers of Scottsburg, Toby Zellers of Auburn and Dawn Cooper of Cincinnati, Ohio; and five great-grandchildren, Lisa, Wyatt and Zoe Zellers, all of Scottsburg, and Jacob and Ashley Cooper of Cincinnati, Ohio.

His wife, Jane Zellers, preceded him in death in 1991.

Services will be Friday at 2 p.m. at McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be Friday from 1-2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Cancer Society.

## Helen Fisher

BUTLER — Helen "Bumps" Fisher, 93, formerly of Butler, died Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2007, at Wolf Creek Nursing Center in Toledo, Ohio.

She was retired from her career as a secretary for Fisher Insurance and Kandel Insurance. She was a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Butler.

She was born Sept. 7, 1914, in Toledo to Ralph and Ethel (Tess) White. They preceded her in death.

She married Argus Fisher on Aug. 24, 1935, in Angola, and he preceded her in death.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Terry and Mary Fisher of Waterville, Ohio; three grandchildren and their spouses, Dr. Timothy and Judy Fisher of Whitehouse, Ohio, Michelle and Dino Paglia of Columbus, Ohio, and Melinda Fisher of Maumee, Ohio; and three great-grandchildren, Brandon Fisher of Columbus, Ashley Paglia of Columbus and Tyler Fisher of Maumee.

She was preceded in death by a sister, Betty Keltner.

Private family services will take place, with burial in Eddy Cemetery at Hamilton.

Memorials are to St. Mark's Lutheran Church of Butler.

Condolences may be sent at www.hejohnsonfh.com.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** is *being reprinted to clarify the date of services.*

## Keith Orewiler

AUBURN — Keith R. Orewiler, 95, of Auburn died at 8:10 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2, 2007, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mr. Orewiler had retired from the Indiana Department of Transportation. He had also worked for the Angola Police Department for 25 years.

He was a lifetime area resident.

Mr. Orewiler was a former member of the Angola American Legion Post. He enjoyed horse racing, auto racing and his association with the police department.

He was born Oct. 1, 1912, in Steuben County to Roy and Nellie (Maxton) Orewiler.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Marsha and John Liechty of Auburn; two sons, Dean Orewiler and his fiancee, Diane Avery, of Kendallville and Larry Orewiler and his fiancee, Lorie Knight, of Auburn; and three grandchildren, Arri and Ian Orewiler of Kendallville and James Orewiler of Wisconsin.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Russell Orewiler.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 13, at Brazzell Funeral Home, Avilla Chapel. Burial will be in South Scott Cemetery in Steuben County.

Calling will be one hour prior to services Dec. 13 at the funeral home.

The EVENING STAR
December 6 2007 Auburn, Indiana

## Alexander Failor

WOLCOTTVILLE — Alexander Richard Failor, 4 months, of Wolcottville died Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2007.

He was born in Fort Wayne on Aug. 6, 2007, to Scott and Crystal D. (Nitcher) Failor.

Surviving with his parents are two brothers, Thomas Failor of Angola and Crystien Nitcher of Wolcottville; his grandparents, Dana Failor of Fort Wayne and Linda Bowman of Auburn; a great-grandmother, Betty Failor of Fort Wayne; and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

He was preceded in death by grandparents, Larry Nitcher and Vickie Nitcher; and a great-grandmother, Harriett Nitcher.

Services will be at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at Hite Funeral Home in Kendallville with the Rev. Mike Failor officiating. Burial will be at South Milford Cemetery at South Milford.

Memorials are to the family.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** *is being republished with information about additional surviving relatives.*

## Kenneth Zellers

AUBURN — Kenneth W. Zellers, 88, of Auburn died Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2007, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mr. Zellers was a brakeman with the B&O Railroad for 39 years, retiring in 1978.

Mr. Zellers

He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II and a 62-year member of American Legion Post 97 in Auburn. He participated in the Library of Congress Veterans History Project in Washington, D.C., and loved golf and sports.

He was born in Willard, Ohio, to George and Thelma Zellers. They preceded him in death.

Surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Kenneth "Skip" and Nila Zellers and Douglas Zellers, all of Auburn; a stepson and his wife, Fred and Faye Mock of Willard, Ohio; three grandchildren, Scott Zellers of Scottsburg, Toby Zellers of Auburn and Dawn Cooper of Cincinnati, Ohio; and five great-grandchildren, Lisa, Wyatt and Zoe Zellers, all of Scottsburg, and Jacob and Ashley Cooper of Cincinnati, Ohio.

His wife, Jane Zellers, preceded him in death in 1991.

Services will be today at 2 p.m. at McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn.

Calling will be today from 1-2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Cancer Society.

## Terry Frost

GARRETT — Terry J. Frost, 44, of Garrett died Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2007, at his home.

Mr. Frost was a member of New Life Ministries of Garrett.

He was born June 2, 1963, in Fort Wayne to Richard and Rita (Phillips) Frost. His father preceded him in death, and his mother survives in Garrett.

Also surviving are his companion, Joan Walker of Garrett; a son, Michael Frost of Garrett; two daughters and a son-in-law, Brystle and Lynn K immery of Tennessee and Chelsie Shadrack of Arizona; a stepdaughter and her husband, Barbara and Todd Clendenon of Tennessee; three grandchi-dren, Brennon Frost-Kimmery, Kamrick Kimmery and Kayden Kimmery; one stepgrandchild, Madison Adkison; a sister and brother-in-law, Tina and William Hensinger of Garrett; two brothers and a sister-in-law, Tony and Penny Frost of Corunna and Bryan Frost of Garrett; and a grandmother, Mabel Kearns of Columbia City.

Services will be Monday at 1 p.m. in Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Pastor Lane Andrews will officiate. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery of Garrett.

Calling will be Monday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are in care of the funeral home.

## Helene Briggs

AUBURN — Helene M. (Henry) Briggs, 83, of Auburn, died Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2007, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Born in Fort Wayne, she was a homemaker. She graduated from Central Catholic High School in 1942 and was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn.

Mrs. Briggs

Surviving are her husband, Donald R. Briggs of Auburn; four daughters and three sons-in-law, Mary Ann and Wally Sakamoto of Hawaii, Carol Briggs of Fort Wayne, Kristine and Adam Connelly of Fort Wayne and Barbara and Lee Chapman of Bloomington; a son and daughter-in-law, Joseph and Martha Briggs of Indianapolis; a sister, Doris Fosnaugh of Fort Wayne; and three brothers, Norman Henry and Jack Henry, both of Fort Wayne, and Joe Henry of Wolcottville.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Joseph and Lillian (Degitz) Henry.

Services will be Monday at 10 a.m. in Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 500 E. Seventh St., Auburn. Burial will be in the Catholic Cemetery at Fort Wayne.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. at McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, and Monday from 9-10 a.m. at the church.

A rosary service will take place Sunday at 5 p.m. in the funeral home.

Memorials are to Catholic Relief Services, 228 W. Lexington St., Baltimore, MD 21201 or The City of St. Jude, 2048 W., Fairview Ave., Montgomery, AL 36108.

The EVENING STAR
December 8 2007 Auburn, Indiana

## Calvin Clarke

FORT WAYNE — Calvin B. Clarke, DDS, 84, of Fort Wayne, died Thursday, Dec. 6, 2007, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

A native of Auburn, Mr. Clarke was a self-employed dentist for 35 years in a practice limited to children.

He was a U.S. Navy veteran. During World War II he served four years on a minesweeper off Anzio, Italy, and his ship was blown up. After his discharge from the Navy, he attended Butler University in Indianapolis.

He entered the Indiana University School of Dentistry in 1948 and graduated in 1952. He took an internship at the Strong Carter Dental Clinic for Children in Honolulu, Hawaii, for one year and began his practice in Fort Wayne in 1953.

He served as president of the Indiana Society of Dentists for Children from 1965-1966 and was president of the Indiana Society of Pedodontists from 1971-1972. He served as president of the Indiana Dental Society and was a member for 50 years.

He was 33rd degree Mason and was a member of F&AM Lodge 214, Auburn, and the Scottish Rite. He sang with the Shrine Chanters for many years

He was born Jan. 26, 1923, in Auburn, the youngest of four sons of Dr. Charles R. and Helen (Bauer) Clarke. They preceded him in death.

Surviving are his wife of 62 years, Lucille C. (Capobianco) Clarke of Fort Wayne; two daughters and a son-in-law, Kathleen and Ted Cacouris of Portland, Ore., and Judith Anne Clarke of Gatesville, Texas; and three grandchildren, Dimitri Cacouris, Christina Cacouris and Zakary C. Clarke.

He was preceded in death by a son, Charles, and a daughter, Susan.

Services will be Monday at 11 a.m. in Klaehn, Fahl & Melton Wayne Street Chapel, Fort Wayne, with Pastor Robert Arenobine officiating. Burial will be in Greenlawn Memorial Park Cemetery.

Calling will be at the funeral home Sunday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. and Monday from 10-11 a.m. A Masonic service will begin at 6 p.m. Sunday.

Memorials are to the Shrine Children's Hospital or Matthew 25 Clinic.

The EVENING STAR
December 9 2007 Auburn, Indiana

# Inner vision: Walker didn't let blindness stop him

BY AMY OBERLIN
amyo@kpcnews.net

ANGOLA — John E. Walker could take apart a clock and put it back together.

He could play piano, work on a computer and drive a car. He even jumped out of an airplane once.

While these accomplishments may not seem remarkable, they were milestones for Walker. Born April 11, 1938 with cataracts and a progressive vision disability, Walker's eyes were removed before he was 5 years old. He lived his life with eyes of glass; blind, but not incapable.

"He called it handicapable," said Walker's son, Casey, of Angola.

Walker died at the age of 69 on Oct. 30 at Lutheran Hospital, Fort Wayne after retiring in April from Tyden-Brammall, where he had done hand assembly for almost 28 years. He always worked, and drew government disability funds only when he had colon problems, family members said.

"Everything he has ever done was for his wife," said Casey's wife, Jennifer, who was also John and his wife Jean's first female foster child.

His name was John Lower when he met Jean in the early 1960s. John played piano and Jean was a cocktail waitress at the Hamilton House in Hamilton. They talked a lot, and she began driving him home after work to Pleasant Lake.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**John E. Walker plays keyboards and sings in a photo used on the cover of his CD, "Home Spun," which features instrumentals and vocals by himself. The CD is available for $10.**

"I was older than Johnny, 14 years," said Jean.

"He was one of the most wonderful people I've ever met in my entire life."

When John's brother, Roger, returned from the service, he suggested the two get married.

Both Jean and John had been married before, and already had children. They decided to have one child together, Casey, and then decided to become foster parents in 1979.

John's son from a former marriage, Chuck Wengerd, died of a heart attack at the age of 31. A brother, Chuck Lower, also preceded John in death.

He and Jean's family includes Casey and Jennifer and son Phil and his wife Angie Gilham of Odessa, Fla.; daughters and sons-in-law Roger and Marsha Lower of Rocky Mount and Carl and Lori Lower of Beaverton, Mich.; a sister and brother-in-law, Mary and Richard Rose of Hillsdale, Mich.; 12 grandchildren; several great-grandchildren; a great-great-grandchild; and many foster children.

They were foster parents for 20 years, and adopted Jennifer when she was a teenager. On May 19, the Walkers celebrated 45 years of marriage.

Through the years, John tuned pianos and played them. He appeared at various popular night spots, including Cold Springs in Hamilton and The Hatchery in Angola. While performing at the Rendezvous, a bar and eatery where the Fast Break gas station now stands in Angola, John was discovered by Michigan club-owner Jack Schnietman. Schnietman was on his way to Fort Wayne to scope out entertainers, and found John on his journey south.

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He hired John to work a nightly gig in Marshall, Mich., as well as occasionally in Saugatuck, Mich. in the mid-1960s. John lived in Michigan during the week, and Jean would drive there to pick him up to spend the weekends in Angola with his family.

It was during that time that John decided to change his name. John E. Walker had a ring, and with its similarity to the scotch of the same name seemed to fit a blind piano man. Family members recall the day they took on their father's new identity, changing from the Lower family to the Walker family over a weekend.

John made a name for himself in other ways, too. On May 23, 1965 near Waterloo, John parachuted from a plane.

"See the first blind man in the world jump from an aircraft," said fliers distributed at the time. John made newspaper headlines and received a trophy. His family is seeking inclusion in the "Guiness Book of World Records."

"He said, 'I just want to do it once to feel it,'" said Jean.

His brother, Roger, jumped first, wearing radio equipment to talk John down. But Roger's parachute veered off in an unexpected direction and John for the most part did the stunt himself.

As a young man, John appeared on "Strike It Rich," winning $500, when he attended the Ohio State School for the Blind. It was there he learned to play piano and read Braille.

Family members extoll him as a genius and a leader.

"People would come to him with problems, to talk to him because he was always there," Jean said. "Everybody loved him."

He was a member of the Angola Moose Lodge and Angola Masonic Lodge No. 236.

Many pictures adorn the walls of the Walker home, memories of special times in a family rich with togetherness and mutual respect. Jean keeps John's room the same, a small enclosure off their bedroom packed with a keyboard, recording equipment and a computer equipped with Window Eyes software.

John's wife and children say he never said "goodbye." And they will never say goodbye to him by keeping his memory alive in their hearts and homes.

## Mary Jane Snook

GARRETT — Mary Jane Snook, 67, of Garrett died Saturday, Dec. 8, 2007, in her home.

Mrs. Snook

She worked for Essex in Auburn until its closing. She then worked for Renaissance in Auburn until her retirement in 2002.

She was a member of Garrett Presbyterian Church, Auburn Women of the Moose Lodge 261, Garrett Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1892 Auxiliary, Garrett Eagles Aerie 1357 and Elks Lodge 1016 of Effingham, Ill.

Mrs. Snook was born June 1, 1940, in St. Joe to Harry and Lula (Lutz) Shuff. Her parents preceded her in death.

On March 28, 1958, in St. Joe, she married Gerry G. Snook. He survives in Garrett.

Also surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Sharon and Mack Short of Auburn; three sons and two daughters-in-law, Steven R. Snook, Kevin J. and Patty Snook, and Timothy J. and Christy Snook, all of Garrett; three brothers, Harold Shuff of Fontana, Calif., Chalmer Shuff of Glendale, Ariz. and James Shuff of Garrett; seven sisters, Jackie Walker, Joan Mills, Roseann Kinsey and Janice Witte, all of St. Joe, Claudia Hulbert and Faye Tarlton, both of Auburn, and Shirley Chapman of Butler; eight grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a son, Michael D. Snook; a daughter, Patrish D. Snook; three sisters, Linda Sattison, Kaye Ells and Kate Clady; and four brothers, Harry Shuff Jr., Robert Shuff, Maurice "Bud" Shuff and Franklin Shuff.

Services will be Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, with Pastor Eddie Clark officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery of Garrett.

Calling will be Tuesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. in the funeral home.

Memorials are to DeKalb Memorial Home Health and Hospice.

To send a condolence or sign an online guestbook, visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

## Karen Premer

AUBURN — Karen L. Premer, 60, of Auburn died Sunday, Dec. 9, 2007, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Premer

She received her technical degree in secretarial science at Ivy Tech in Fort Wayne. She was a homemaker and a Brownie leader for two years. During her high school years, she worked as a candy striper at DeKalb Memorial Hospital.

She married Willa Dean Sparkman in Auburn on Dec. 24, 1967. He preceded her in death on June 12, 1986. She was born Oct. 30, 1947, to Herbert and Ethel M. (Ackerman) Kandel, who both preceded her in death.

Survivors include a son and daughter-in-law, Brady A. and Denise Sparkman of Auburn; a daughter, Stacy R. Sparkman of Auburn; three grandchildren, Starr E. Sparkman, Brianna Miller and Zachary Miller; and a sister and brother-in-law, Linda S. and Rick San Pietro of Fort Wayne.

Service will be Wednesday at 2 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home in Auburn with the Rev. Al Black officiating. Burial will be in Butler Cemetery in Butler.

Calling will be Wednesday from noon-2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the Starr Sparkman Education fund in care of Brady A. Sparkman.

The EVENING STAR
December 11 2007 Auburn, Indiana

## Susan Sommers

AUBURN — Susan Annette Sommers, 51, of Auburn died Sunday, Dec. 9, 2007, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

She was a premium insurance auditor for Chlystek & White, with headquarters in Grand Rapids, Mich. She was a member of the Waterloo United Methodist Church.

She was born Jan. 2, 1956, in Olean, N.Y. Her father, Marvin Warner, survives in Fort Wayne. Her mother, Marion (Linderman) Warner, also survives in Fort Wayne.

She married Todd Sommers in Las Vegas, Nev., on July 5, 1996. He survives.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Shaun and Brandi Rutter of Butler; a daughter and son-in-law, Sara and Aaron Brandon of Auburn; three grandchildren, Bayleigh Rutter, Timmery Rutter and Ashlynn Brandon; three brothers and two sisters-in-law, Joe Warner of Auburn, Ralph and Cindy Warner of Fort Wayne and Terry and Jean Warner of Fort Wayne; and a sister and brother-in-law, Sally and Tom Holle of Hoagland.

Services will be Thursday at 1 p.m. at Feller and Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. The Rev. Rex Charles will officiate.

Calling will be Wednesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family.

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December 12 2007 Auburn, Indiana

# Community leader Nelson Harrod, 82, dies

KENDALLVILLE — Nelson W. Harrod, 82, of Kendallville died at 1:01 p.m. Monday, Dec. 10, 2007, at Parkview Noble Hospital where he had been a patient for one day.

Mr. Harrod worked with his father at The Harrod Co. in Kendallville, specializing in roofing, siding and insulation work. The business closed after 50 years of service to the community.

He had been a very active member of the community and was named Citizen of the Year in 2002. He was appointed to the Kendallville Board of Zoning Appeals by Mayor Ralph Nash in the early 1960s and continued serving in that capacity until he resigned in 1980.

He served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He was a member of American Legion Post 86 since February 1946, and had been a life member of Francis Vinyard VFW Post 2749 since 1948.

Mr. Harrod was a member of Faith United Methodist Church in Kendallville; past Master of the Mason Blue Lodge which he joined in 1946; Yorkrite in 1947; a Shrine member since 1972; a Scottish Rite member since 1981; a lifetime member of the Indiana Past Commander's Association Knights Templar; and a member of Kendallville Elks Lodge No. 1194 since 1953.

In 1958, he joined the Kendallville Rotary Club and was recently honored as a Paul Harris Fellow. In May 1992, he received the Knight of the York Cross of Honor.

Mr. Harrod

He served as president of the Little Long Lake-Round Lake Association for three years. He and his wife, Sally, have lifetime membership No. 1 at the Mid-America Windmill Museum, where Mr. Harrod served as president in 1992-1993.

He was born Jan. 17, 1925, in Menominee, Mich., to Sanford and Elizabeth (Nelson) Harrod. On June 13, 1980, he married Sally B. (Brown) Babcock in Kendallville. She survives in Kendallville.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Byron and Sue Harrod of Williamsburg, Va.; a daughter and son-in-law, Melanie and Mike Meskel of Santa Ana, Calif.; four stepdaughters and their husbands, Linda and Robert Kunkel of Kendallville, Terri Babcock of Fort Wayne, Jean Babcock of Fort Wayne, and Diana and Brian Heil of Elkhorn, Wis.; three grandchildren; six stepgrandchildren; and two great-grandsons.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Sanford Harrod Jr.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Young Family Funeral Home, Kendallville Chapel, 222 S. State St., Kendallville, with the Rev. Leon Pomeroy of Faith United Methodist Church officiating. Burial will be in Lake View Cemetery with military graveside services by VFW Post 2749. Pallbearers will be Adrian Nowels, Trent Hamilton, A. Stephen Pyle, Dr. Tom Jansen, Alvin Moore and Dr. Gerald Warrener. Honorary pallbearers will be Jack Frederick and Dick Zerkle.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home. A candlelight Masonic Lodge service will be held at 8 p.m.

Memorials are to the Mid-America Windmill Museum Endowment Fund.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.youngfamilyfuneralhome.com.

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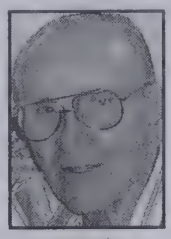
December 12 2007 Auburn, Indiana

## Clifton Eberly

HAMILTON — Clifton D. Eberly, 86, of Hamilton and formerly of Waterloo died Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2007, at Lakeland Skilled Nursing and Rehab.


Mr. Eberly

Mr. Eberly was a lifetime farmer. He was a self-employed construction worker and built several homes. He also worked as a machinist at Charleston Metal Products in Waterloo for 20 years, retiring in 1975.

He was a member of the Loyal Order of the Moose in Angola and enjoyed hunting and fishing.

He was born Nov. 27, 1921, in Waterloo to Theodore Ward Eberly Sr. and Dorothy Veda (Till) Eberly. They preceded him in death.

Surviving are two sons and a daughter-in-law, Keith D. Eberly of Auburn and Steven D. and Christine Eberly of Hamilton; a daughter and son-in-law, Nancy and Bob Dean of Angola; a sister, Naomi Forrest of Waterloo; 10 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, Theodore Ward Eberly Jr. and Mac Eberly.

Services will be Thursday at 2 p.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. Ralph Diehl officiating. Burial will be in Waterloo Cemetery.

Calling will be Thursday from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Cancer Society.

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December 13 2007 Auburn, Indiana

## Donald Fike Sr.

AUBURN — Donald R. Fike Sr., 79, of Auburn died Wednesday, Dec. 12, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Born in Kendallville, he worked for the New York Central Railroad for 16 years. He retired from the DeKalb County Highway Department in 1991 and served as Corunna town marshal. He loved spending time with his family.

Surviving are his wife, Eleanor, of Auburn; four daughters and sons-in-law, Sue and David Albright of Corunna, Diane and David Wofford of Ashley, Sharlene and Les Warstler of Waterloo and Amy and Kevin Grate of Corunna; five sons and daughters-in-law, Terry and Linda Fike of Garrett, Ronald and Kathy Fike of Waterloo, Donald Fike Jr. and Brenda Fike of Kendallville, Robert and Gidget Fike of Auburn and Jason and April Fike of LaGrange; a sister, Donna Belle Wagers of Auburn; 24 grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren.

A private family service is planned. Burial will be in Sedan Cemetery in rural DeKalb County.

There will be no calling.

Memorials are to the Corunna Church of Christ.

McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home of Auburn is handling arrangements.

## Velma Farrington

AUBURN — Velma L. Farrington, 95, of Auburn died Wednesday, Dec. 12, 2007, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mrs. Farrington

She was a homemaker and a very active member of New Hope Christian Center.

She was born Aug. 27, 1912, in Salem Township in Steuben County to Marlton D. and Daisy D. (Tritch) Shumaker. They preceded her in death.

She married Hugh K. Farrington on Sept. 20, 1944, in the Presbyterian manse in Auburn. He died Sept. 28, 2000.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Mary Lou and Tom Thompson of Waterloo; four grandchildren, Debra Squier, Jason David, Suzanne Fritz and Ryan David; two stepgrandchildren, Tammy Swank and Ryan David; 10 great-grandchildren; a brother, Heber Shumaker of Angola; and two sisters and a brother-in-law, Jean and Paul Reinoehl of Ashley and Beverly Blood of Warsaw.

Services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. The Rev. Ralph Diehl will officiate. Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery in rural Corunna.

Calling will be Friday from 2-6 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to New Hope Christian Center.

## Anne (Kagey) Reas

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio — Melissa Anne (Kagey) Reas, 57, of Reynoldsburg died Thursday, Dec. 13, 2007, at Mount Carmel West Hospital in Columbus.

She was employed as a registered nurse with the American Red Cross. She was a member of Rosehill Church of Christ in Reynoldsburg. She did missionary work in India and taught at a Christian school in Puerto Rico.

She was born Feb. 22, 1950, in Garrett to Harold J. and Alice V. (Hart) Kagey.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Jay and Lisa Reas; a daughter and son-in-law, Jessica and James Logan; and five grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a brother, Richard Kagey; and a sister, Martha J. Beard.

A memorial service will be Sunday at 2:30 p.m. at Coburn Corners Church of Christ in rural St. Joe. Burial will be in Alton Cemetery of St. Joe.

Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home of Spencerville is handling arrangements.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** is *being reprinted with a correction. We apologize for our typographical error.*

## Velma Farrington

AUBURN — Velma L. Farrington, 95, of Auburn died Wednesday, Dec. 12, 2007, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

She was a homemaker and a very active member of New Hope Christian Center.

Mrs. Farrington

She was born Aug. 27, 1912, in Salem Township in Steuben County to Marlton D. and Daisy D. (Tritch) Shumaker. They preceded her in death.

She married Hugh K. Farrington on Sept. 20, 1944, in the Presbyterian manse in Auburn. He died Sept. 28, 2000.

Surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Mary Lou and Tom Thompson of Waterloo; four grandchildren, Debra Squier, Jason David, Suzanne Fritz and Ryan David; two stepgrandchildren, Tammy Swank and Jill Thompson; 10 great-grandchildren; a brother, Heber Shumaker of Angola; and two sisters and a brother-in-law, Jean and Paul Reinoehl of Ashley and Beverly Blood of Warsaw.

Services will be today at 11 a.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo. The Rev. Ralph Diehl will officiate. Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery in rural Corunna.

Memorials are to New Hope Christian Center.

## George Stout

PALMETTO, Fla. — George W. Stout, 63, of Palmetto, Fla., died Thursday, Nov. 29, 2007, at Tidewell Hospice and Palliative Care in Bradenton, Fla.

Mr. Palmetto lived in Fort Wayne before moving to Florida and worked at Magnavox, retiring in 1999 after working 35 years.

He was born in Auburn on June 20, 1944, to Waldo "Frosty" and Zora Bowers Stout. He was a 1962 graduate of Hamilton High School. When he moved to Palmetto, Fla., he was the board treasurer of Palms of Manasota.

Survivors include a life companion, Jan Darstein; a brother and sister-in-law, Dave "Bill" and Sandi Simon of Wichita, Kan.; three sisters and brothers-in-law, Ida Lou and Denver Hamman of Hamilton and Jill and John Alan Hughes and Susan and David Detar, all of Pleasant Lake; four nephews, seven nieces; and seven great-nephews.

Family services were held. Johnson Funeral Home, 812 N. Main St., Hudson, was in charge of arrangements.

The EVENING STAR
December 16 2007 Auburn, Indiana

# Energy, music and adventure

## June Miller lived full life of 91 years

BY VIV ROSSWURM
vivianr@kpcnews.net

AVILLA — June Miller, born of unusual circumstances in 1916, did not have a typical childhood. And for the rest of her 91-plus years, she would never fit into a "typical" mold.

Born June Vivian Jones — and affectionately dubbed "Babe" by her dad — she was the adopted daughter and only child of Edward Warren and Mary Viola Stogdill Jones. Her father, a very successful farm implement salesman, had been married before and had six children by his first wife.

June's birth mother, Buela Dock was a single mother from Hammond who was left pregnant by a departing World War I soldier. Later, after World War II, with the help of her Lambda Delta Phi sorority, June made arrangements to meet her mother. Dock had married a railroader and had several children. She met with June, but requested that June never try to contact her other children, since she had never told them about her. June complied.

Adventure was a part of June's life from a very young age. When she was 6, her adopted father and mother decided to move to California. They packed up everything they owned except two canaries and set out on a long road trip through unpaved roads with no bridges, through territory with no motels, hotels, grocery stores, or gas stations and over treacherous mountain passes.

The California venture did not work out, and the family moved back to Indiana a year later.

June's mother had a love for music and bought June a piano when she was 6 years old. June started playing the piano in first grade and never stopped, becoming music teacher and passing on her love of music to people she met. Wherever there was a convocation or holiday program, June was there playing the piano.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**June Vivian Jones Miller and her husband, Charles Maurice Miller, at Christmas in 1942.**

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When she was 14, she became friends with Pauline Heckman, a sheet music saleswoman at a department store in downtown Fort Wayne. June would play the piano while Heckman served customers.

At age 16, her connection to Heckman would land June her first job, working for Heckman's husband, who was editor of the Journal Gazette newspaper. In 1932, in the midst of the Great Depression, June made $32 a week, a good salary for that era.

June never heard the word "can't." From a very young age, she was told she would attend college. She entered Ball State in 1934 and graduated two years later with a teaching degree.

It was at college that June met and fell in love with Charles Maurice "Maury" Miller, her future husband.

June's first teaching job was in a small, one-room schoolhouse in Poneto, just south of Bluffton. In 1938, she got a teaching job in Huntertown.

June and Maury married very quietly in 1938. According to her son, Dave Miller, who lives in California, during that time period female elementary school teachers were not supposed to be married. Consequently, a year later June was fired from her teaching position. But being married was not the total reason, according to Dave Miller. What really played into it was the fact that June had married a Catholic man and had converted to Catholicism.

In 1942, June traveled with Maury when he was commissioned as an ensign in the U.S. Navy and assigned to the Navy Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) command in Boston, Miami and Key West. June fulfilled her need for music with frequent trips to the symphony and especially the Boston Pops. She played the organ at radio stations during their soap operas, commercials and other live productions. When Maury deployed overseas, June returned to live in Ossian with her in-laws.

Never one to adjust to the status quo, June was known to enjoy an occasional bottle of beer or two with her co-workers in Ossian. Her mother-in-law was against alcohol in any form. In the ensuing conflict, with both sides refusing to bend, June's father-in-law settled the matter by allowing June to drink her beer — on the porch.

After Maury returned home at the end of the war, the couple tried unsuccessfully to start a family. Eight years later, they adopted their first child, Michael. After that, June discovered she was pregnant and gave birth — four times, in fact — to four more boys, Dave, Thaddeus, Anthony and Thomas. Sadly, Thaddeus died shortly after birth.

In 1955, with four growing boys, June and Maury moved from Fort Wayne to rural Garrett, building a new home in Holiday Lakes. They immediately immersed themselves in the community. June and Maury got involved in replacing St. Joseph's Elementary School that had been built in 1888 with a brand-new facility. June was active in Mother's Club, Rosary Society and the Knights of Columbus. The Millers became local celebrities with fund-raising cookouts and dinners at their home.

June Miller was a "soccer mom" before the term became widely known. All of her sons were athletic — son Anthony "Tony" Miller was inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame in November — and June was at every youth baseball game.

When her son, David ,was good enough to make the Little League team, but never got to play, she organized her own team. Maury and Paul Rugman built a baseball field. Garrett resident Lee Harter coached and obtained used baseball uniforms and Maury provided Minnesota Paints Hats, and June Miller had her Holiday Lakers baseball team.

In the 1960s, while all of her children were attending school, June enrolled at Saint Francis College and completed her bachelor's degree. In 1965 she returned to teaching in Harlan, where she taught for over 20 years.

In 1982, after a triple-bypass operation from which he never recovered, Maury died. June retired and moved to Florida, where she resumed her love of travel. Accompanied by friends, she took tours to Europe, the Caribbean, the Middle East and Asia. One of her favorite pictures shows her riding on the back of an elephant in Nepal while tiger hunting.

June's health began to deteriorate in 2001 and she moved back to Indiana, where she resided first at Smith Farms Manor in Auburn, later moving to Sacred Heart Provena Nursing Home in Avilla.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**After retiring as a music teacher, June Miller loved to travel. This photo – her favorite – shows her riding on the back of an elephant, while tiger hunting on a trip to Nepal and India.**

At Sacred Heart, Dave Miller said, his mother was the librarian and a regular social butterfly up until the end of her life.

June Vivian Jones Miller died Oct. 2 after 91-plus years of nonstop energy, music and adventure, her son said.

The EVENING STAR
December 17 2007 Auburn, Indiana

## Melissa (Kagey) Reas

ST. JOE — A service for Melissa Anne (Kagey) Reas, 57, of Reynoldsburg, Ohio, will be today at 2:30 p.m. at Coburn Corners Church of Christ in rural St. Joe.

The service was postponed from Sunday due to a winter storm.

She died Thursday, Dec. 13, 2007, at Mount Carmel West Hospital in Columbus, Ohio.

She was employed as a registered nurse with American Red Cross. A member of Rosehill Church of Christ in Reynoldsburg, she did missionary work in India and taught at a Christian school in Puerto Rico.

She was born Feb. 22, 1950, in Garrett to Harold J. and Alice V. (Hart) Kagey.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Jay and Lisa Reas; a daughter and son-in-law, Jessica and James Logan; and five grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, a brother, Richard Kagey, and a sister, Martha J. Beard.

Burial will be in Alton Cemetery of St. Joe.

Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home of Spencerville is handling arrangements.

## Patricia Gilliland

GARRETT — Patricia J. Gilliland, 81, of Garrett died Sunday, Dec. 16, 2007, at St. John's Hospital in Anderson.

A lifetime Garrett resident, she worked for the collections department at Garrett City Hall for 11 years before retiring in 1992.

She was a member of the First Baptist Church in Garrett and Tri Kappa Sorority, and served as director of the Miss Garrett Pageant from 1968 until 2003.

She was born Jan. 3, 1926, in Kendallville to Robert A. and Gladys M. (Turney) Whitford.

Surviving are three sons, Craig Gilliland of Oakland, Calif., David Gilliland of Atlanta, Ga., and Douglas Gilliland of Anderson; a daughter, Paula Rutherford of Muncie; a sister, Virginia Yanuszeski of Kendallville; two granddaughters, Holly Rutherford and Carmen Gilliland; and a grandson, Nicolas Gilliland.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a brother, Jack Whitford; and a sister, Roberta Hile.

Services will be Friday at 2 p.m. at Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56. Garrett, with Pastor Art Ferry officiating. Burial will be in Lake View Cemetery at Kendallville.

Calling will be one hour prior to the service in the funeral home.

Memorials are to the First Baptist Church of Garrett.

To sign an online guestbook or send a condolence to the family, visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

## Gladys Warner-Losure

AUBURN — Gladys Marie Warner-Losure, 100, of Auburn died Monday, Dec. 17, 2007, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mrs. Warner-Losure was a homemaker.

She was born Sept. 12, 1907, to Albert Henry and Cora Mae (Fegler) Warner. They preceded her in death.

She married Lenna Romain Losure on Dec. 16, 1939. He died Dec. 18, 1971.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, William Dale and Bert Marshall of Boyne City, Mich.; two grandchildren, Pamela Ellstrom and her husband, Ole, of Boyne City, Mich., and Danny Marshall of Pen Argyl, Pa.; five great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren; and several cousins and friends.

Graveside services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn with the Rev. Al Black officiating.

There will be no calling.

Memorials are to Meese Chapel United Methodist Chuch or a charity of the donor's choice.

Feller and Clark Funeral Home is handling arrangements.

## Robert Purkhiser

PORT HOPE, Mich. — Robert B. Purkhiser, 91, of the Lighthouse Park area near Port Hope, Mich., died Saturday, Dec. 15, 2007, at Bay City Medical Center, Bay City, Mich., after hip replacement surgery and rehabilitation at Coutney Manor in Bad Axe.

Mr. Purkhiser owned and operated DeHaven Coal Co., Hoosier Soil Service and Purk's Bait and Tackle in Bluffton, until he moved to Michigan in the early 1970s.

He was a member of the Bluffton Elks for many years. He was an avid sports fan and loved the outdoors. He was a hunter, fisherman and enjoyed Bluffton Tiger basketball and the Purdue Boilermakers.

He was born May 28, 1916, in Salem to James Benjamin and Grace E. (Brewer) Purkhiser. They preceded him in death.

He married LaVerne Schardine on July 13, 1940. Together they owned and operated the Purkhiser Rustic Cottages near Lighthouse Park from 1972 to 1989. She preceded him in death on Feb. 5, 2005.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Jay and Beth Purkhiser of Auburn; a daughter-in-law, Suzy Purkhiser of Villeur Banne, France; two grandchildren, Caitlin and Kelly; several nieces and nephews; and a sister-in-law, Luella Purkhiser.

He was preceded in death by a son, Robert Lynn Purkhiser.

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. in Ramsey Funeral Home, 425 State St., Harbor Beach, Mich. Burial will be in New River Cemetery near Huron City.

Calling will be Thursday from 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. and Friday from 10-11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Heartland Hospice or a charity of the donor's choice.

## Robert Shockley

SPENCERVILLE — Robert L. Shockley, 76, of Spencerville died Tuesday morning, Dec. 18, 2007, at Wesley Healthcare in Auburn.

Mr. Shockley worked as an assembler at RISE Inc. He was a member of the Spencerville United Methodist Church and enjoyed singing hymns and reading his Bible every day. He loved Diet Pepsi, County Line Cheese and playing euchre. He always said he liked two kinds of pie, hot and cold.

He was born April 28, 1931, in Spencerville to Hearsel and Kathryn E. (Conwell) Shockley. They preceded him in death.

Surviving are a sister, Margaret Conner of Blountsville; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, Hearsel S. "Bud" Shockley and Roland Shockley, and two sisters, Louise Zimmerman and Betty Rediger.

Services will be Friday at 1 p.m. in the Spencerville United Methodist Church with Pastor Gerry Weesner officiating. Burial will be in Leo Memorial Park Cemetery.

Calling will be Thursday from 4-7 p.m. at Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home, 6992 S.R. 1, Spencerville.

Memorials are to the Spencerville United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 100, Spencerville, IN 46788.

## Herman Fee

ORLAND — Herman C. Fee, 88, of Orland (Wall Lake) and formerly of Edgerton, Ohio, died at 7:25 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2007, at Northern Lakes Healthcare Center in Angola, where he was a resident after an extended illness.

Mr. Fee

Mr. Fee was self-employed as a truck driver and car hauler and also owned and operated Fee's Truck Stop near Edgerton, Ohio, for seven years. He worked as a mechanic for Maxton Motors in Butler for several years.

He was born Nov. 4, 1919, in Butler to Herman A. and Esther Mae (Riser) Fee.

He married Goldie I. Deal on Dec. 25, 1938, in Butler, and she survives. This year they would have celebrated their 69th wedding anniversary.

Also surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Janet and Charles Reamsnyder of West Unity, Ohio, and Irene and Larry Teats of Montpelier, Ohio; one son and daughter-in-law, Herman Jr. and Marilyn Fee of Montpelier, Ohio; five grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; four great-great grandchildren; two brothers, Bill Fee of Morenci, Mich., and Brooks Fee of Edgerton, Ohio; and one sister, Gloria Oberlin of Pinellas, Fla.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, George and Bob Fee.

Services will be Friday at 1:30 p.m. in the Krill Funeral Home, Edgerton, Ohio, with Pastor John Pool officiating. Burlal will follow in Maple Grove Cemetery in Edgerton.

Calling will be Friday from 12:30-1:30 p.m. in the funeral home.

Memorials are to the American Heart Association or to a charity of the donor's choice.

Condolences may be sent to and an online register may be signed at www.krillfuneralservice.com.

## Walter Simanton

ORLANDO, Fla. — Walter Eugene Simanton, 83, died Dec. 1, 2007, in Orlando, Fla., with family members present.

Mr. Simanton

He was born Oct. 2, 1924, in DeKalb County, the eldest of five children of Pauline and Correll G. Simanton.

He grew up in Auburn and served 34 months in the U.S. Navy in World War II.

He married Jo Anne Patrick in Auburn, and she survives. They celebrated 60 years of marriage on June 28, 2007.

Also surviving are two sons and two daughters-in-law David Eugene and Patty Simanton of Bloomington and Dr. Dexter Simanton and Sue Simanton of Oviedo, Fla.; five grandchildren and their spouses, Scott Simanton of Bloomington, Chris Simanton of Indianapolis, and Ben and Inelisa Simanton, Tim and Amanda Simanton and BreAnna and Mickey Talley, all of Florida; four great-grandchildren, Isabel and Lucas Simanton and Lorelei and Lance Talley; three brothers Robert of Northfield, Ill., Richard of Auburn and Max of Auburn; and a sister, Julia Culbertson of Tulsa Okla.

He attended and was a member of Aloma United Methodist Church in Winter Park, Fla.

A celebration of his life will be held at Aloma United Methodist Church in January 2008.

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## Oscar Watson

SPENCERVILLE — Oscar V. Watson, 85, of Spencerville died Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Watson

Mr. Watson was a lifetime DeKalb County farmer. He also worked for Aro Corp. in Waterloo for 38 years, retiring in 1990.

He was a member of the County Line Church of God and the DeKalb County Farm Bureau.

He was born Sept. 1, 1922, in Jackson Township to Floyd and Agnes (Reinhold) Watson. They preceded him in death.

He married Evelyn Adams on March 14, 1948, in Butler, and she survives in Spencerville.

Also surviving are five sons and four daughters-in-law, Steve and Sherry Watson of Auburn, Keith and Elaine Watson of Bartlesville, Okla., Roger and Judy Watson of St. Joe, Lynn Watson of Auburn and Duane and Suzanne Watson of St. Cloud, Fla.; a daughter and son-in-law, Julie and Kaye Bowers of Hicksville, Ohio; 20 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; two brothers, Harry Watson of Cromwell and Paul Watson of Auburn; a sister, Mabel Hook of Jamestown, Ohio; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Services will be Saturday at 11 a.m. in Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn, with the Rev. Bob Herman and the Rev. Stuart Kruse officiating. Burial will be in the Cedar Creek Cemetery in rural Garrett.

Calling will be Friday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. and Saturday from 10-11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the County Line Church of God Building Fund.

# West Noble area businessman, farmer Gordon Yeager, 56, dies

TOPEKA — Gordon L. "Gordy" Yeager, 56, of Topeka, a well-known farmer and West Noble area businessman, died Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2007, at Parkview Noble Hospital, Kendallville, of an apparent heart attack.

The lifetime Noble County resident graduated from West Noble High School in Ligonier in 1969. Until 1974 he owned Ligonier Sanitation and farmed.

He served on the Ligonier Fire Department for 12 years, and drove a bus for West Noble School Corp. for 20 years. He was an active member of the Ligonier Elks Club, serving all chair positions and achieving Exalted Ruler in 1999.

Mr. Yeager was also an accomplished pilot, receiving his private rating in 1981 and his IFR rating in 1996.

He began his funeral home service career in 1974 when he joined Orr Funeral Home in Ligonier. In 1983 he went to work for Ulrey-Renner Funeral Home in Ligonier and remained there until July 2006.

In January this year, he became a full-time member of Mishler-Eastlund Funeral Home, Harris Chapel, in Syracuse, and was the owner of the new Yeager Funeral Home that is nearing completion in Ligonier.

Mr. Yeager

He always aspired to meet the needs of his community and had a natural ability to connect with and console the bereaved.

In Kendallville on Sept. 28, 1951, he was born to Herman and Alice (Johnson) Yeager. They preceded him in death.

Surviving are his life partner, Ruthann Richards of Topeka; a sister and brother-in-law, Eileen and James Gingerich of Syracuse; a brother and sister-in-law, Roger and Judy Yeager of Baltimore, Md.; two grandchildren, Brooke and Connor, both of Sturgis, Mich.; and additional loving family, Mike and Laure Cunningham, and Justin, Jarod and Jenna Cunningham, all of Topeka; Kim Cunningham and Heather Fausnaugh, both of California, Dawn and David Irmshcher, and Ryan Fausnaugh, all of Fort Wayne.

In addition to his parents, a sister, Julia Ann Riddle, preceded him in death.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Sunday at Stone Hill Community Church, Ligonier, with Pastors Harold Gingerich and Joey Nelson officiating. Burial will be in Maple Grove Cemetery, Topeka.

Calling will be Friday from 5 to 8 p.m. and Saturday from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. at West Noble Middle School in Ligonier.

Memorials are to the Wawaka Alumni Association or Perry and Elkhart Township 4-H Club.

Mishler-Eastlund Funeral Home, Harris Chapel, Syracuse, is in charge of arrangements.

Condolences may be sent online to www.mishlerfuneralhome.com.

## Tina Hagenbuch

COMSTOCK, Mich. — Tina (Anderson) Hagenbuch, 42, of Comstock, Mich., died Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2007.

Mrs. Hagenbuch

Mrs. Hagenbuch was employed as an administrative assistant by Comstock Township, Mich. She was a translator for deaf children.

A 1983 graduate of Angola High School, she was involved in pom-poms in high school.

She was born April 6, 1965, in Angola to David Price, who preceded her in death. She married Jeff Hagenbuch in Jamaica on April 8, 2006. He survives in Kalamazoo.

Also surviving are her children, Skye Mercer of Portage, Mich., Tylar N. Mercer of Comstock, Mich., and newborn triplets, Teegan Blade Hagenbuch, Trinity Parker Hagenbuch and Rowan Rylee Hagenbuch; mother and stepfather, Carolyn and James Anderson of Venice, Fla.; two sisters and one brother-in-law, Stacey L. Anderson and Jennifer K. and Troy Book; one half brother; one half sister; grandmothers Ada Depew of Waterloo and Frieda Price of Kalamazoo, Mich.; stepgrandmother Genevieve Gordon of Venice; mother-in-law Shirley Clothier and her husband Ed of Marshall, Mich.; father-in-law Gerald Hagenbuch and his wife Yvonne of Three Rivers, Mich.; two sisters-in-law, Laurie Hagenbuch and Debbie and Tony Ruden; and several nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her biological father, David Price, and great-grandmother, Mable Strayer.

Calling will be Saturday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Langeland Family Funeral Homes, Comstock Chapel, Comstock, Mich. The family has requested that all those in attendance wear colorful clothing to celebrate her love for color. Cremation will follow calling.

Memorials are to the Tina M. Hagenbuch Memorial Fund, care of Consumers Credit Union or to the Hagenbuch-Anderson Premie Triplets Trust Fund at First Federal Savings. Checks should be payable to Jeffrey Hagenbuch.

## Wilma Smith

FORT WAYNE — Wilma I. Smith, 75, of Fort Wayne died Monday, Dec. 17, 2007, at St. Joseph Hospital in Fort Wayne.

She was a homemaker and a member of V.F.W. Post 857 Auxiliary, DAV 19 Auxiliary, American Legion Post 381 Auxiliary and La Femme Cabane Voyager No. 37.

Survivors include her husband, William L. Smith, Fort Wayne; a daughter and son-in-law, Dana and Tom Bowman, Fort Wayne; two sons and daughters-in-law, Gary and Janis Belcher, West Palm Beach, Fla., and Roger and Patty Meschberger, Auburn; 10 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and a sister, Theresa Kruger, Garrett.

Her first husband, Gilbert Belcher, and her second husband, Clarence Meschberger, preceded her in death.

Services were held at 11 a.m. today at D.O. McComb & Sons Lakeside Park Funeral Home, Fort Wayne, with Pastor Kathleen Haller officiating. Burial was in Covington Memorial Gardens, Fort Wayne.

Memorials are to Make A Wish.

## George Mansfield

LAKE PLACID, Fla. — George Leroy Mansfield, 78, of Lake Placid, Fla., and formerly of Butler, died Monday, Dec. 10, 2007.

Mr. Mansfield

Mr. Mansfield worked for Rieke Corp. of Auburn for 28 years and later started the Mansfield Auction House. After retiring in 1997, he moved to Lake Placid.

He was born March 21, 1929, in Ligonier to Martin and Laura (Wiseman) Mansfield. They preceded him in death.

He married Ruby Bender on Jan. 22, 1956. He married his second wife, Matilda Louise Hawkins, on July 2, 1975. She survives in Lake Placid.

Also surviving are a brother and sister-in-law, Calvin and Eula Mansfield of Auburn; a sister, Dorthy Stevenson of Butler; a son, Ricky Lee of Butler; two daughters and a son-in-law, Cynthia and George Carper of Auburn and Sandi Kreisher of Auburn; five grandchildren and their spouses, Tracy and Jason Dohm of Auburn, Kristan and Robert Aborn of Avilla, Jacob Mansfield of Butler, Ariel Minnix Hill of Garrett and Tesia Kreisher of Auburn; and seven great-grandchildren, Kheagun Fleckenstein, Korbin Fleckenstein, Kameron Aborn, Ross Dohm, Landon Aborn, Haylee Hill and Damien Hill.

He was preceded in death by three brothers, Boyd, Henry and William, and two sisters, Ruth Sonner and Beatrice Carr.

Funeral services are pending.

## John Sherck

WATERLOO — John C. Sherck, 82, of Waterloo, died Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2007, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn.

Mr. Sherck

Mr. Sherck was a lifetime farmer and also worked for 30 years at Dana Corp. in Auburn until retiring in 1987.

He was a World War II veteran of the U.S. Army and a member of Cedar Lake Church of Christ.

He was born May 23, 1925, in Auburn to Calvin and Cora (Street) Sherck. They preceded him in death.

He married Wilma Humbert on Sept. 27, 1947, in Albion, and she survives.

Also surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Dean and Tammy Sherck of Waterloo; three daughters and two sons-in-law, Vicki and Kim Eberly of Waterloo, Karen and Dave Fretz of Greenfield and Christine Sherck of Angola; six grandchildren and their spouses, Rachel and Matt Whitaker, Zackary and Liz Fretz, Tyler Sherck, Beth and Tim Becker, Lisa Makovicka and Jonathan and Yuko Graham; and three great-grandchildren, Baleigh Makovicka, Colby Becker and Nikala Graham.

He was preceded in death by a son, Dwight, four sisters, Lavon Zook, Ruth Dickenson, Lorraine Wilmont and Daisy Hook, and four grandchildren, Brandon, Kalab and Jordanne Sherck and Jennifer Fretz.

Services will be Saturday at 1 p.m. in Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with Steve Evans officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery at Auburn.

Calling will be today from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to RISE Inc. or Cedar Lake Church of Christ.

## Geraldine Tingley

WATERLOO — Geraldine Tingley, 81, of Waterloo died Friday, Dec. 21, 2007, at her home in Waterloo.

Mrs. Tingley worked for many years at Crane-Edmond in Butler, Essex in Auburn and Therma Tru in Butler.

She was a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Auburn, Ashley Order of the Eastern Star Chapter 229 and Waterloo Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary.

She was a past member of Indiana Realtors Association and the Auburn Business and Professional Women.

She served on the Waterloo Plan Commission and also worked the polls on Election Day for many years.

She was born Oct. 4, 1926, to John and Dora (Dillion) Green in Summerford, Ohio.

She married Gerald Everett Tingley on June 11, 1946, in Greenup, Ky. He preceded her in death on Dec. 27, 1986.

Surviving are two daughters, Jennifer Tingley of Waterloo and Sue Trausch of Edon, Ohio; a sister, Patty Miller of Waterloo; a special grandson, Jeremy Miller of Fort Wayne; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by four sisters, Bonnie Green, Charlotte Donat, Shirley Willis and Katherine Cramer.

Services will be at 4 p.m. Sunday at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, with the Rev. Stephen Kummernuss officiating. Burial will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Glen Haven Memorial Gardens, New Carlisle, Ohio.

Calling will be from 2-4 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be directed to the DeKalb County Humane Society.

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# Woodcock's legacy etched in stone

**BY FRED J. WOOLEY**
Park Interpreter, Pokagon State Park

CORUNNA — On Nov. 10, Pokagon State Park lost a very good friend when Roger Woodcock of Corunna passed away.

Roger was a good friend to many. Rarely did you see Roger when he did not have a smile on his face. He loved people and he loved telling a story. His favorite stories were those of history. Roger lived a life rich with many experiences. He lived a good life and spread goodness with all he met.

Roger was from Avilla, where he graduated from high school in 1936. From there he entered a most significant portion of his life that he would later say made him the man he became and provided him with wonderful friends and interests that he held dear for a lifetime. Graduating in the heart of the Great Depression, Roger enrolled into the then three-year old government program, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). He was stationed at Pokagon State Park with Company 556, where he would remain until the spring of 1939. His main job was a stone mason and he learned a craft that became his calling card later in life.

From the CCC he moved into the U.S. Army, and he served in World War II and post-World War II from 1942 until 1946. He was awarded the Western Pacific Presidential Citation, the U.S. Bronze Star and the Philippine Government Star.

Following the Army he worked as a railroad conductor for the B&0 and CSX railroads for 36 years. Upon retirement in 1976, he pursued other interests that grew from seeds planted during his Pokagon CCC years. He developed a great interest in flowers, fruit trees, native forest trees and other plants associated with the natural woodlands and meadowlands. From this interest he developed and became co-owner of the Fairfield Nursery in DeKalb County. He boasted of countless species of trees, shrubs and flowers planted on his farm.

As hard of worker as he was, he took time to play as well. He was active in the Future Farmers of America and would help lead fishing trips for young people into the northwoods.

He and his wife Laura, who survives, have four sons, Wade, Brian, Raymond and Gary; and two daughters, Janice and Brenda. They all had to share their dad's interests and passions and one that stood out among all was the love of working with stones. Roger's skills as a stonemason are well documented by the number of stone structures he built throughout northeast Indiana. Of course, at Pokagon, there is the saddle barn, group camp dining room annex, and his beloved spring shelter that showcase some of his rock cutting and placing craftsmanship, but there are equally beautiful rock walls, fireplaces, chimneys and monuments scattered throughout the region.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Roger Woodcock of Corunna was a stone mason who worked on structures throughout northeastern Indiana.**

Roger always joked that stone masons never signed their projects; in case they fell down, no one would know who did the work. He claimed all rock masons have a signature though, in the form of a special technique or type of stone used. His was the beautiful pudding stone. Pudding stone is a conglomerate with an off-white base and pebbles of red and brown jasper and other silicate pieces. Look at any monument or fireplace built by Roger at the park, or elsewhere, and you will find a piece of puddingstone front and center.

In the mid-1950s Roger organized the first reunion of CCC Co. 556 at Pokagon State Park. The park's main beach shelter became the venue for that gathering and for the next 50 years, Roger shepherded a committee, maintained a mailing list, sent out a newsletter and conducted a reunion on the last Sunday in July. It became the longest running reunion of CCC vets, for a particular company, in the country. So popular was it and the CCC history of Pokagon, in the mid 1980's the main beach shelter was renamed the CCC Shelter and in 1992 was named to the National Register of Historic Places.

As the 50th reunion approached, the men were getting up there in years and the venue for the reunion was moved to the nature center where parking and air conditioning make it a little more convenient. In recent years, the park has assumed the organizing of the day and refers to it as a CCC Open House-Reunion, inviting not only remaining veterans, but also family members and anyone from the general public who have an interest in this significant part of our country and park's heritage.

Roger returned to the park on many other occasions. During the years that Fallfest was held at Pokagon, Roger would have a station where he would demonstrate rock cutting. Anyone willing and able was invited to come up and take a swing or two on a rock. Many walked away with a chunk of stone, autographed by Roger. Everyone walked away with a few stories of what life was like in the park in the 1930s.

When Fallfest moved to Angola, Roger would still come to Pokagon from time to time to do stonecutting programs and presentations covering park history. It was not all programs either. When we had an issue with a rock wall repair, small monument needed, Roger Woodcock was the go-to guy. He came back several times and continued contributing to our facilities. When the park reconstructed a CCC-built, 1940 inn cabin in 1999, Roger returned and showed the park crew how to select, cut and mortar stones for the foundation.

Roger was a spirited individual, always quick with a smile, a one liner, and self-deprecating humor. Those who knew him well will quote Roger's quips and sayings. Roger was a proud man. Proud of his family and friends, proud of his service to our country, proud of his time in the Civilian Conservation Corps, past and present, proud of his activities with youth, and proud of his contributions to Pokagon State Park. It was an honor to know Roger Woodcock.

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## Dorothy Martin

AUBURN — Dorothy Alice (Webber) Martin, 88, of Auburn died Friday, Dec. 21, 2007, at Betz Nursing Home in Auburn following a long illness.

Mrs. Martin

She was formerly a resident of Dunkirk. She enjoyed cooking, sewing and gardening. She retired in 1993 after working at McCord's Variety Store for 18 years.

She was born March 10, 1919, in Knox County, Tenn., the daughter of Letcher and Essie (Stanley) Webber. They preceded her in death.

On April 20, 1940, she married Thomas Edward Martin. He died Dec. 8, 1998.

Surviving are three daughters, Barbara J. Dollier of Auburn, Linda L. Fowler of Kokomo and Kathy S. Waller of Conroe, Texas; two sons, Thomas E. Martin of Auburn and David L. Martin of Berne; nine grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and eight great-great-grandchildren.

Services will be Thursday at 2 p.m. at Garden View Funeral Home, 10501 N. S.R. 3, Muncie. Pastor Dennis Trimble will officiate. Burial will follow at Gardens of Memory Cemetery in Muncie.

Calling will be Thursday from noon to 2 p.m. at the funeral home.

To sign an online guest book and send condolences to the family, visit www.gardenviewandgardensofmemory.com.

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## George Mansfield

BUTLER — A service celebrating the life of George Mansfield, 78, of Lake Placid, Fla., will be Sunday, Jan. 6, 2008, at 6 p.m. at the American Legion Post in Butler. Pastor Glenn Hawkins will officiate.

Mr. Mansfield

Mr. Mansfield, formerly of Butler, died Monday, Dec. 10, 2007, at Lake Placid Health Care Center.

He was born in Elkhart County to Martin and Laura Mansfield and had been a resident of Lake Placid since 1997, coming from Indiana.

He served his country in the U.S. Army and was an auctioneer, owning the Butler Auction House for 30 years. He was a Baptist.

Surviving are his wife of 31 years, Louise; his children, Cynthia Sue Carper, Ricky Lee Mansfield and Sandra Sue Kreshier; his stepchildren, Ron Lanning, Larry Lanning, Doyle Marr, Iris, Glenn Hawkins, Michael Hawkins and Beverly Underwood; 14 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren; a sister, Dorothy Stevenson; and a brother, Calvin Mansfield.

He was preceded in death by two sisters, Ruth Sonner and Beatrice Harr, and three brothers, Henry, Boyd and Bill Mansfield.

Scott Funeral Home of Lake Placid, Fla., is handling arrangements.

## Robert Burns

FORT WAYNE — Robert W. Burns, 86, of Fort Wayne died Saturday, Dec. 22, 2007, at Byron Health Center in Fort Wayne, surrounded by his loved ones.

Mr. Burns was born May 24, 1921, in Fort Wayne and graduated from Central Catholic High School. He attended St. Joseph College in Rensselaer, where he was president of his class.

He began his boxing career at the age of 16, joining the CYO. He boxed for Indiana Golden Gloves for three years. In 1938, he won the Journal-Gazette Sportsmanship Award. In 1941, he won the National Golden Gloves welterweight title in Chicago Stadium in such an impressive win, he was awarded the Barney Ross Sportsmanship trophy, presented by Ross, a former lightweight and welterweight champion of the world. In 1942, Mr. Burns won the National Golden Gloves middleweight title at Madison Square Garden.

He joined the U.S. Navy and was named one of two boxing instructors at Great Lakes Naval Base. The other was Tony Zale, middleweight champion of the world. Mr. Burns trained for the All-American Tournament, captaining the Golden Gloves team. Mr. Burns' win at Buffalo, N.Y., made him the undisputed amateur middleweight champion of the United States

After the war, he turned professional, with a 30-3 record. He was inducted into the Golden Gloves Hall of Fame in 1963.

Mr. Burns was a member of Iron Workers Local 147 and a car inspector for Penn Central and Conrail railroads, retiring in 1981.

Surviving are a sister, Mary Zarbach; five sons and three daughters-in-law, Robert Jr. and Judy Burns of Riverside, Calif., Denny Burns of Hagerstown, Jim and Sue Burns of Adams Lake, Jack Burns of Auburn, and Pat and Renie Burns; two daughters and sons-in-law, Molly and Chris Hartman of Fort Wayne and Mary and Pat McLaughlin of Garrett; 25 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 46 years, Mary Jane (Bueter) Burns; a daughter, Sandy; a brother, Thomas; and sisters, Ruth and Genevieve.

Services will be Friday at 10:30 a.m. in St. Jude Catholic Church, 2130 Pemberton Drive, Fort Wayne.

Calling will be today from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Klaehn, Fahl & Melton Funeral Home, 420 W. Wayne St., Fort Wayne, and Friday from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to Women's Care Center.

## John Heath

FORT WAYNE — John R. Heath, 89, died Tuesday, Dec. 25, 2007, at 1:30 a.m. in Bethlehem Woods Nursing and Rehabilitation Center of Fort Wayne.

Mr. Heath was a member of Christ's Church at Georgetown in Fort Wayne, where he was an adult Sunday school teacher. He worked as a teacher in schools in Grover Hill, Ohio, and Latty, Ohio, and retired from Shambaugh Elementary School in Fort Wayne.

He was born March 17, 1918, in Paulding County, Ohio, to Raymond R. and Ida (Powell) Heath.

He married Mary E. Sinn on May 31, 1942. She died Dec. 9, 2002.

Surviving are two sons and one daughter-in-law, Bradley K. Heath of Churubusco and J. Daniel and Yvonne Heath of Fort Wayne; one daughter and son-in-law, Kristi and John Bennett of Auburn; a sister, Helen Treece of Briceton, Ohio; eight grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

He was preceded by his parents and two sisters, Margaret Heath and Kathryn Robinson.

Services will be Friday at 2 p.m. in Den Herder Funeral Home, 1000 W. Wayne Street, Paulding, Ohio, with the Rev. Erick Riddle officiating. Burial will be in Middle Creek Cemetery in Grover Hill, Ohio.

Calling will be today from 4-7 p.m. and Friday from 1-2 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to Alzheimer's research.

## Herbert Freidenberger

BUTLER — Herbert A. "Friday" Freidenberger, 84, of Butler died Tuesday, Dec. 25, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Freidenberger served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He was an avid Chicago Cubs and Detroit Tigers fan and enjoyed reading, trains, steam and gas engines and antiquing.

He retired from Hendickson Tandem after 25 years of service as a truck driver. He also owned and operated Herb Freidenberger Bulk Lime and Fertilizer, farmed, drove a bus for the Butler schools and was a rural mail carrier.

He was a member of the Butler American Legion Post 202, where he was active in Hoosier Boys State and placement of flags. He was also a 50-year member of Forest Lodge 239 F&AM and a former member of the Butler Fire Department, Butler Eagles and Waterloo Veterans of Foreign Wars.

He was born Feb. 24, 1923, in Franklin Township to Herbert Freidenberger Sr. and Velma Haverstock Freidenberger.

He married Beatrice Armstrong on Feb. 21, 1948, in Butler. She died May 15, 1969.

Surviving are two daughters and a son-in-law, Nancy and Bill Huguenard of St. Joe and Linda Ralstin of Valparaiso; a sister, Jeanette Burkhart of Edgerton, Ohio; and two grandchildren and their spouses, Cynthia and Jamey Kern-McMillen of Butler and Brian and Jenna Ralstin of Valparasio.

Graveside services will be Monday at 11 a.m. in Butler Cemetery, with military honors by Butler American Legion Post 202.

## Marjorie Reinoehl

ANGOLA — Marjorie Reinoehl, 84, died Monday, Dec. 24, 2007, at Northern Lakes Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center in Angola.

Mrs. Reinoehl

Mrs. Reinoehl was a homemaker. She was a member of the Pleasant Chapel Church of the Brethren of Ashley and a charter member of the Never Idle Home Demonstration Club.

She was born March 31, 1923, in Smithfield Township of DeKalb County to Raymond D. and Wanda L. (Tuttle) Hartman. They preceded her in death.

She married John H. Reinoehl on Oct. 23, 1942, in Noble County. He survives.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-6 p.m. at H.E. Johnson and Sons Funeral Home, 212 N. Broadway, Butler, with a Masonic service at 5:30 p.m.

Memorials are to the American Legion Scholarship Fund or the DeKalb County Humane Shelter.

To send condolences and view a video tribute, visit www.hejohnsonfh.com.

Also surviving are six sons and four daughters-in-law, John and Kay Reinoehl of Waterloo, James and Ruth Reinoehl of Maryville, Tenn.; Phil Reinoehl of South Bend, Mark and Donna Reinoehl of Waterloo, Joel Reinoehl of White Pigeon, Mich., and Chris and Tara Reinoehl of Mishawaka; two daughters and sons-in-law, Carol and Paul Smith of Angola and Brenda and Bob Dudley of Phoenix, Ariz.; 28 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; a brother and two sisters-in-law, Maynard L. "Mike" and Phyllis Hartman of Angola and Mary Hartman of Kinderhook, Mich.

She was preceded in death by a son, David L. Reinoehl, a brother, William F. Hartman, and a sister, A. Dolores Fee.

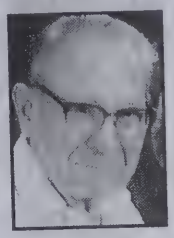
Services will be Monday at 11 a.m. in the Pleasant Chapel Church of the Brethren in rural Ashley. The Rev. Mike Smith will officiate. Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery in rural Corunna.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-6 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, and Monday from 10-11 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to the Pleasant Chapel Church of the Brethren.

## John Freeze

GARRETT — John M. Freeze, 92, of Garrett died Wednesday, Dec. 26, 2007, at Miller's Merry Manor Nursing Home in Garrett.


Mr. Freeze

Mr. Freeze owned and operated Freeze Television in Garrett for 25 years, retiring in 1980. He was a ham radio operator at W9LOW and was a member of the Michigan Fiddlers Association.

He was born March 29, 1915, in Garrett to John M. and Florence (Hite) Freeze. They preceded him in death.

On June 3, 1937, in Garrett he married Genevieve "Jenny" Reavis. She died May 8, 2002.

Surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Linda and Steven Davis of Garrett and Debra and Dick Boyd of Auburn; a son and daughter-in-law, John "Jack" and Edna Freeze of Garrett; three grandsons and their wives, Bryan and Shawn Freeze, and John and Joei Freeze, all of LaGrange, and Steve and Tracy Davis of Garrett; three granddaughters and a spouse, Jennifer Davis and Judy Garrett, both of Garrett, and Mary Ann and Daryle Applegate of Butler; two sisters, Leanna Friend of Auburn and Lois Best of Indianapolis; 16 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

He was preceded in death by a son and daughter-in-law, James and Diane Freeze; a brother, Ronald Freeze; a sister, Barbara Brown; and a grandson, Bill Freeze.

Services will be Friday at 11 a.m. in Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, with Pastor Russ Howard officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery of Garrett.

Calling will be today from 4-8 p.m. and Friday from 10-11 a.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to DeKalb Memorial Home Health and Hospice.

To send a condolence or sign the online guestbook, visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

## Velma DeKoninck

FORT WAYNE — Velma A. DeKoninck, 81, of Fort Wayne died Thursday, Dec. 27, 2007, at 12:30 a.m. at her home.

Mrs. DeKoninck retired from the Poe Tavern in 1990 after 24 years of service. She was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church, Hessen Cassel, and the church choir. She was a member of Hi-C's Home Economic Club, Women of the Moose Lodge 1311 for more than 30 years and the Poe Fire Department Auxiliary for 55 years.

She was born Aug. 8, 1926, in Yoder to John M. and Marie M. (Vachon) Schuhler. They preceded her in death.

She married Joseph A. DeKoninck on Nov. 6, 1948, in Fort Wayne. He died Nov. 15, 1968.

Surviving are five daughters and four sons-in-law, Mary Ann and Steven Bradtmueller of Fort Wayne, Dorothy and Thomas Cole of Ossian, Marie and Michael Letizia of Toledo, Ohio, Betty and Scott Schroeder of Fort Wayne and Angela Bailey of Noblesville; seven sons and six daughters-in-law, James and Lori DeKoninck of Fort Wayne, Kenneth and Deb DeKoninck of Spencerville, Thomas and Becky DeKoninck of Decatur, Gerald and Marlene DeKoninck of Fort Wayne, Stanley and Pam DeKoninck of Auburn, Anthony DeKoninck of Ossian and Matthew and Rhonda DeKoninck of Perrysburg, Ohio; three brothers and sisters-in-law, John and Barb Schuhler of Fort Wayne, Richard and Betty Schuhler of Fort Wayne and Edward and Dodie Schuhler of Avilla; two sisters and a brother-in-law, Delores and "Jack" Miller of Fort Wayne and Marjorie Belcher of Kettle Island, Ky.; 21 grandchildren; three stepgrandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and five stepgreat-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by two sisters, Edna Warkala and Rosemary Nicole, and five brothers, Robert, Harold, Donald, Delbert and William Schuhler.

A family prayer service will be Saturday at 1 p.m. in Zwick and Jahn Funeral Home, Decatur, followed by a 2 p.m. service at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Hessen Cassel, with Father Thomas Lombardi officiating. Burial will be in St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery, Hessen Cassel.

Calling will be today from 1-4 and 7-9 p.m. and Saturday from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the funeral home. A rosary service will begin at 10:30 a.m. Saturday in the funeral home.

Memorials are to masses, St. Joseph School, the church choir or the Poe Fire Department.

Condolences may be sent at www.zwickjahn.com.

## Larry Webster

BUTLER — Larry Duane Webster, 75, of rural Butler died Tuesday, Dec. 25, 2007, in Foley, Ala.

Mr. Webster was a rigger for International Industrial Contracting Corp. in Michigan for many years. He was a member of the Ironworkers union and the Elks Club. He graduated from Redford High School in Detroit.

He was born Dec. 21, 1932, in Butler to Weldon and Eula (Beerbower) Webster.

He married Barbara Joan Burkheiser on Jan. 9, 1951, in Detroit. She survives.

Also surviving are four sons and a daughter-in-law, Duane of Ann Arbor, Mich., Dennis of Highland, Mich., David and Jeanine of Commerce Township, Mich., and Donald of New York, N.Y.; nine grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a daughter, Diane Kay Ottewell.

Services will be Monday at 1 p.m. at Smith & Brown Funeral Home of Hicksville, Ohio, with Larry Weller officiating. Burial will be at Newville Cemetery.

Calling will be Sunday from 3-6 p.m. and Monday from noon to 1 p.m.

Memorials are to the Alzheimer's Association.

## Donna Buchmeier

GARRETT — Donna J. Buchmeier, 76, of Garrett and formerly of Kendallville died Wednesday, Dec. 26, 2007, at Regency Place Nursing Home in Fort Wayne. Mrs. Buchmeier had been in declining health for the past nine years.

Mrs. Buchmeier was a homemaker and had been a volunteer at the former McCray Memorial Hospital in Kendallville for 30 years.

She and her husband had lived in Albion, near Skinner Lake and then in Kendallville for 17 years. For the past four years they had lived in Garrett.

Mrs. Buchmeier and her husband were members of Cedar Creek Church of the Brethren near Garrett where she was a member of the Ladies Aid Society.

She enjoyed reading and bird watching and liked to travel, especially to Washington, D.C. She also enjoyed watching her grandchildren's sporting events.

She was born on Sept. 23, 1931, on the family farm in rural Garrett to Wayne and Ruth (Keck) Shirk. She married Richard F. Buchmeier on June 10, 1950, in Garrett and he survives.

Also surviving are four sons and daughters-in-law, Ron and Cindy Buchmeier of Greenwood, David and Brenda Buchmeier of Merriam, Paul and Sally Buchmeier of New Castle and Jim and Sherri Buchmeier of New Haven; a brother and sister-in-law, James and Sue Shirk of Auburn; and her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a daughter, Diane Wisnieski in February 2003.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Brazzell Funeral Home, Avilla Chapel, with Pastor Brad Hardisty of Cedar Creek Church of the Brethren officiating. Burial will take place at Cedar Chapel Cemetery, near Garrett.

Calling will be from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Council On Aging or to the American Heart or Cancer Society.

To view the obituary or to leave the family a condolence visit www.brazzellfuneralhome.com.

## Beulah Teeters

AUBURN — Beulah Gretchen Teeters, 94, died Wednesday, Dec. 26, 2007, at Wesley Health Care Center in Auburn.

Born in Fairfield Township, she was a licensed practical nurse at Cameron Hospital in Angola for 10 years, retiring in 1965. She also was employed by Sacred Heart of Garrett for 10 years. She was a member of the Cedar Lake Church of Christ.

Surviving are a son, Richard L. Prosser of Auburn; a daughter, Pat Desmond of Florida; eight grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and a sister, Dorothy Houser of Hamilton.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Ora and Etta Mae Rowe, a daughter, Katrina M. George, and two grandchildren, Brian Prosser and Sean Wetherill.

Private graveside services will be at a later date.

Memorials are to the DeKalb County Heart Association.

McComb, Dilgard & Cline Funeral Home, 502 N. Main St., Auburn, is handling arrangements.

## Ivan Slusher

ECONOMY — Ivan L. Slusher, 84, of Winchester died Dec. 26, 2007, at Indiana University Medical Center in Indianapolis.

Mr. Slusher was a 1942 graduate of Winchester High School, where he played on the basketball team. He was a decorated World War II Army veteran, serving from 1942-1945. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Winchester and the Union City Elks Lodge 1534. He retired as chief engineer from Delaware Machine and Tool in Muncie.

He enjoyed gardening, yard work, woodcarving, coin collecting and collecting Indian artifacts.

He was born Jan. 8, 1923, in Winchester to Orville and Martha Florence (Dick) Slusher.

He married Darlene (Coffman) Slusher on Nov. 4, 1945, in Winchester. She survives.

Also surviving are a daughter and son-in-law, Deborah and Jim Kaiser of Auburn; a son and daughter-in-law, David and Glenda Slusher of Lithia Springs, Ga.; four grandchildren and their spouses, Heather and Damon Barth of Huntertown, Trinity and Christina Boyd of Albion, Amanda and Brent Bailey of Auburn, and Nick Kaiser of Fort Wayne; five great-grandchildren, Bo Bailey, Sara Bailey, Emma Barth, Lindsey Boyd and Jarrett Beauhof; one sister-in-law; a nephew and a niece.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Robert Slusher.

Services will be Monday at 11 a.m. in Walker Funeral Home, 248 E. South St. Winchester, with Pastor Sandy Knepple officiating. Military services will follow at Fountain Park Cemetery in Winchester.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-5 p.m. at the funeral home. Union City Elks Lodge 1534 will conduct the Lodge of Sorrow ceremony at 4:45 p.m. Sunday in the funeral home.

## Edith Westfall

BLUFFTON — Edith Lou Westfall, 79, of Bluffton died Thursday evening, Dec. 27, 2007, at Bluffton Regional Medical Center in Bluffton.

Mrs. Westfall farmed alongside her husband in Wells County until they retired in 1987. She also worked as an aide at Liberty Center Elementary School. After retiring from farming, she and her husband worked at Appraisal Research Corp. They also served 5 1/2 years as caretakers for the Bluffton 4-H Park.

Mrs. Westfall

She was a member of South Liberty Christian Church until it closed. She then attended the First Church of the Nazarene in Bluffton. She was a member of the Wells County Extension Homemakers.

She was born Nov. 20, 1928, in Marion to John Chester and Nellie E. (Worth) Trotter.

She married Robert Eugene Westfall on March 20, 1949, in Landess. He survives in Bluffton.

Also surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, Ronald E. and Trudy Westfall of Bluffton and Roger A. and Irene Westfall of Huntington; a daughter and son-in-law, Roberta S. and Brian Carnahan of Spencerville; 12 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren; and one sister, Evelyn Morrow of Marion.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two sisters, Margaret Blackburn and Ruby Vaughn; and two brothers, John Trotter and Robert Trotter.

Services will be Monday at 2 p.m. at First Church of the Nazarene, 1515 Clark Ave., Bluffton. Pastor Randy Bryant and Pastor Aaron Westfall will officiate. Burial will be in Gardens of Memory Cemetery in Marion.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. at Goodwin Memorial Chapel, 3220 E. S.R. 124, Bluffton.

Memorials are to Wells County Homemakers Education Fund, 1240 S. 4-H Road, Bluffton, IN 46714.

Carnahan-Baidinger & Walter Funeral Home of Spencerville is handling arrangements.

**THE FOLLOWING OBITUARY** is *being republished with revised information.*

## Herbert Freidenberger

BUTLER — Herbert A. "Friday" Freidenberger Jr., 84, died Tuesday, Dec. 25, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mr. Freidenberger served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He was an avid Chicago Cubs and Detroit Tigers fan and enjoyed reading, trains, steam and gas engines and antiquing.

He retired from Hendickson Tandem after 25 years of service as a truck driver. He also owned and operated Herb Freidenberger Bulk Lime and Fertilizer, farmed, drove a bus for the Butler schools and was a rural mail carrier.

He was a member of the Butler American Legion Post 202, where he was active in Hoosier Boys State and placement of flags. He was also a 50-year member of Forest Lodge 239 F&AM and a former member of the Butler Fire Department, Butler Eagles and Waterloo Veterans of Foreign Wars.

He was born Feb. 24, 1923, in Franklin Township to Herbert Freidenberger Sr. and Velma Haverstock Freidenberger.

He married Beatrice Armstrong on Feb. 21, 1948, in Butler. She died May 15, 1969.

Surviving are two daughters and a son-in-law, Nancy and Bill Huguenard of St. Joe and Linda Ralstin of Valparaiso; a sister, Jeanette Burkhart of Edgerton, Ohio; and two grandchildren and their spouses, Cynthia Kern McMillan and Jamey McMillen of Butler and Brian and Jenna Ralstin of Valparaiso.

Graveside serves will be Monday at 11 a.m. in Butler Cemetery, with military honors by Butler American Legion Post 202.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-6 p.m. at H.E. Johnson and Sons Funeral Home, 212 N. Broadway, Butler, with a Masonic service at 5:30 p.m.

Memorials are to the American Legion Scholarship Fund or the DeKalb County Humane Shelter.

To send condolences and view a video tribute, visit www.hejohnsonfh.com.

## Richard Graffis

SPARTANBURG, S.C. — Richard Wayne Graffis, 62, of Spartanburg, S.C., died Tuesday, Dec. 25, 2007, at his home.

Mr. Graffis attended Culver Military Academy in Indiana. He was a former supervisor at R.R. Donnelley and Sons Co. and a former funeral director at Graffis-Feller Funeral Home in Waterloo. He was a member of the U.S. Golf Association and a U.S. Navy veteran of the Vietnam era.

He was born Aug. 22, 1945, in Auburn, to Wendell and Lottie Shirley Graffis.

He is survived by the mother of his children, Linda Wagner of Rural Hall, N.C.; a son and daughter-in-law, Matthew Wayne and Michelle Graffis; a daughter and son-in-law, Christina Graffis Holly and Taus Holly; a grandson, Jacob Wayne Graffis; and a granddaughter, Brianna Marie Graffis, all of Winston-Salem, N.C.

He was preceded in death by a granddaughter, Victoria Lynn Graffis.

A memorial service with military rites will be Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2008, at 2 p.m. at Floyd's North Church Street Chapel with the Rev. Ken Owens officiating.

Memorials are to Brenner Children's Hospital, c/o Wake Forest University Medical Center, Medical Center Boulevard, Winston-Salem, N.C., 27157.

An online guest register may be signed at www.floydmortuary.com.

J.F. Floyd Mortuary in Spartanburg, S.C., is handling arrangements.

## Wilma Hagerty

AUBURN — Wilma Irene (Oechsle) Hagerty, 84, of Auburn died Friday, Dec. 28, 2007, at DeKalb Memorial Hospital in Auburn.

Mrs. Hagerty was a homemaker and member of the First United Methodist Church of Auburn.

She was born July 2, 1923, in Van Wert, Ohio, the daughter of Albert and Freida (Wittman) Oechsle.

She married Paul Hagerty Nov. 26, 1946. He died Nov. 19, 1989.

Surviving are two daughters and sons-in-law, Carman and Gerry Brady of Garrett and Yvonne and Mike Eberly of Auburn; seven grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; and one brother, Lloyd Oechsle.

Services will be Monday at 11 a.m. at Feller & Clark Funeral Home, 1860 S. Center St., Auburn. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Auburn.

Calling will be Sunday from 2-6 p.m. at Feller & Clark Funeral Home.

Memorials are to the American Cancer Society.

## Maxine Frisby

FORT WAYNE — Maxine L. Frisby, 90, formerly of Fort Wayne, died Tuesday, Dec. 25, 2007, in Peoria, Ariz.

Mrs. Frisby was a homemaker and a volunteer for Hospice of Arizona.

Surviving are eight children and their spouses, Norma Schmucker, Robert and Cathy Frisby, Donald and Nancy Frisby, Betty Miller, James Frisby, Richard Frisby, Thomas and Vicki Frisby and Connie Frisby, one brother, two sisters, 16 grandchildren and 38 great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Frisby

She was preceded in death by her husband, Homer, a daughter, Carolyn Sue, two grandsons, Ronnie and Gregory, and one great-grandson.

Services will be Saturday, Jan. 5, 2008, at 1 p.m. at Carnahan-Baidinger and Walter Funeral Home, 6692 S.R. 1, Spencerville.

Memorials are to Hospice of Arizona, 2222 W. Northern Ave., Ste. A-100, Phoenix, AZ, 85021.

The EVENING STAR
December 30 2007 Auburn, Indiana

# Pageant was woman's passion

## Patricia Gilliland directed Miss Garrett pageant for decades

BY JENNY KOBIELA
jennyk@kpcnews.net

Patricia Gilliland knew she was a trailblazer.

Each year, the longtime director of the Miss Garrett pageant would pick the music for the various parts of the competition, and, sure enough, the music would show up in nationally televised pageants such as Miss America and Miss Universe.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Patricia Gilliland**

"Of course, this was just a coincidence because the songs were so popular at the time, but my mom used to joke that the big pageants would send 'spies' to see what they were doing at Miss Garrett each year," said her son, Doug Gilliland of Anderson.

"She really just put her heart and soul in it every year," he added. "It was really something that she just absolutely loved."

Mrs. Gilliland died Dec. 16 at the age of 81, but her memory lives on through the pageant on which she worked for so long.

Marilee Harris, Miss Garrett 1963, recalls a woman who made the pageant work despite less-than-perfect circumstances.

"It wasn't very polished to begin with," Harris said. There was a swimsuit competition at the elementary school, and the rest of the pageant was held on a flatbed truck uptown during Heritage Days.

"She organized it the best she could because of the circumstances," Harris said.

Gilliland's daughter, Paula Rutherford of Muncie, said her mother always was willing to lend an ear to the problems of anyone who needed her help.

"At the pageant, if any of the girls had any troubles at home, she was always there for them," she said.

"She cared about all the girls," Harris said. "I learned a lot from her, just because she was a very upbeat, positive individual."

"She was kind of like a grandma to everyone," said Jennifer Blotkamp, who won the Miss Garrett crown in 1996. "She gave a lot of hugs. She was kind of one of those people you could count on to cheer you up."

Blotkamp, who also competed in Miss Northeast and Miss Ball State pageants, said Miss Garrett was a less competitive and more friendly pageant.

"The girls really didn't seem as catty," she said. "I think Pat ... wanted everyone to get along. The pageant was more like a character-building than 'Oh my gosh! Who's going to win?'"

Patricia Krus-Baidinger, founder of the Patricia Krus School of Dance in Garrett, said she always admired Gilliland, who was a friend of her family.

"I always thought she was a really neat lady," Krus said. "I just thought she was always dedicated to whatever she did."

Krus worked with Gilliland on the pageant for a few years as well. She was "very enjoyable to work with," Krus said. "She was very organized, and she always had her ideas of what she wanted, and they were great."

Rutherford said the pageant wasn't her mother's only activity, however. Gilliland also enjoyed organizing musicals and shows for her church, First Baptist Church in Garrett.

She was a lover of music, although she played no instrument and rarely performed.

"She was just very active in church with organizing things," Rutherford said.

Doug Gilliland said his mother would put on a big Christmas show for the community each year. People would bring canned food to donate.

"It's kind of like the classic thing," he said. "She always put others first and then worried about herself later."

Harris said she didn't keep in touch with Gilliland after her pageant days, but admires Gilliland's work on the pageant.

"It's been amazing because (the pageant) is something that's been kept alive in Garrett for all those years," she said. "I think that has to be a lot of it because of Pat."

Doug Gilliland said he was touched by the outpouring of love shown at his mother's funeral earlier this month.

"It was just a neat thing to know that, even all these years later, at her funeral a lot of friends from 40 years ago, 50 years ago, paid their respects," he said. "That was a neat, neat thing to know, that even all these years later, there were people who held her in high esteem."

## Pamela Yoquelet

ASHLEY — Pamela Jo Yoquelet, 57, of Ashley died Saturday, Dec. 29, 2007, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Yoquelet worked 21 years for Seimons in Auburn. She was a member of the Independent Full Gospel Church, the church's women's group and the LA Breakfast Car Club. She attended St. John's Lutheran School in Kendallville and was a 1969 graduate of East Noble High School. She loved gardening and spending time with her family.

Mrs. Yoquelet

She was born Sept. 4, 1950, in Lima, Ohio, to James R. and Pauline M. (Heileman) Smith. Her father is deceased. Her mother survives in Auburn.

She married Melvin E. Yoquelet on Nov. 2, 1968, in Kendallville. He survives in Ashley.

Other survivors include two sons and a daughter-in-law, James E. Yoquelet and Jeff A. and Sherry Yoquelet of Avilla; five grandchildren, Andrew Yoquelet of Kendallville, Kyle Yoquelet of Avilla, Janna Yoquelet of Fort Wayne, Alyssa Poage of Avilla and Halle Yoquelet of Avilla; a brother and sister-in-law, David R. and Karen Smith of Stroh; a sister and brother-in-law, Peggy and Norman Yoder of Auburn; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her father, she was preceded in death by a brother, Gary R. Smith, and a sister, Pauletta "P.J." Haines.

Services will be Wednesday at the Independent Full Gospel Church in Ashley with the Rev. Sam Weimer officiating. Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery in Corunna.

Calling will be Tuesday at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, from 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m., and also one hour prior to the service at the church Wednesday.

Memorials are to the Independent Full Gospel Church Fellowship Hall Fund.

## Gerald Nicholas

AUBURN — Gerald J. Nicholas, 72, of Auburn died Friday, Dec. 28, 2007, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

He was a honey bee keeper for 31 years and attended Auburn Nazarene Church. He was a U.S. Army veteran serving during the Vietnam era.

He was born Oct. 7, 1935, in Richland Township in DeKalb County to Forrest and Adah (Goe) Nicholas, who are both deceased.

Mr. Nicholas

He married Nadean Riggs on June 20, 1959 in Mount Pleasant Unitd Methodist Church. She survives.

He is survived by a son and daughter-in-law William and Tonya Nicholas of Garrett; two daughters and two sons-in-law, Wanda and Keith Crowl of Hamilton and DeLilah and Mao Sonkit of Waterloo; six grandchildren, a great-granddaughter; one step great-grandson.; and a sister, Susanna Johnson of Auburn.

Services will be Wednesday at 3 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home, Waterloo, with the Rev. Ralph Diehl officiating. Burial will be in Christian Union Cemetery in Garrett.

Calling will be Wednesday from 1 to 3 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorials are to the New Hope Christian Center Missionary Fund.

## Pamela Yoquelet

ASHLEY — Pamela Jo Yoquelet, 57, of Ashley died Saturday, Dec. 29, 2007, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. Yoquelet

Mrs. Yoquelet worked 21 years for Seimons in Auburn. She was a member of the Independent Full Gospel Church and was active in the church's women's group. She was a member of the LA Breakfast Car Club. She attended St. John's Lutheran School in Kendallville and was a 1969 graduate of East Noble High School. She loved gardening and spending time with her family and her grandchildren.

She was born Sept. 4, 1950, in Lima, Ohio, to James R. and Pauline M. (Heileman) Smith. Her father preceded her in death. Her mother survives in Auburn.

She married Melvin E. Yoquelet on Nov. 2, 1968, in Kendallville. He survives in Ashley.

Other survivors include two sons and a daughter-in-law, James E. Yoquelet of Fort Wayne and Jeff A. and Sherry Yoquelet of Avilla; five grandchildren, Andrew Yoquelet of Kendallville, Kyle Yoquelet of Avilla, Janna Yoquelet of Fort Wayne, Alyssa Poage of Avilla and Halle Yoquelet of Avilla; a brother and sister-in-law, David R. and Karen Smith of Stroh; a sister and brother-in-law, Peggy and Norman Yoder of Auburn; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her father, she was preceded in death by a brother, Gary R. Smith, and a sister, Pauletta "P.J." Haines.

Services will be Wednesday at 11 a.m. at the Independent Full Gospel Church in Ashley with the Rev. Sam Weimer officiating. Burial will be in Fairfield Cemetery in rural Corunna.

Calling will be Tuesday from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. at Feller Funeral Home, 875 S. Wayne St., Waterloo, and Wednesday from 10-11 a.m. at the church.

Memorials are to the Independent Full Gospel Church Fellowship Hall Fund.

## Hoot Gibson

GARRETT — Hoot Denzel Gibson, 81, of Garrett, died Saturday, Dec. 29, 2007, at 10:30 p.m.

Mr. Gibson

Mr. Gibson was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II, serving from 1944-1946.

He worked in the coal mines of West Virginia and was also a mechanic in Zanesville, Ohio.

He was a truck driver for Martin in Fort Wayne and Rugman and Hanson in Chicago. He retired as manager of the Garrett Marathon Station in 1988 after 25 years of service.

He was a member of the Garrett Eagles Aerie, Garrett Elks Lodge, Waterloo Veterans of Foreign Wars, Auburn Moose Lodge and Garrett American Legion Post 178.

Mr. Gibson was born Nov. 15, 1926, in Chesapeake, W. Va., to Carl Wade and Addie (Bennett) Gibson. He was one of 11 children. His parents preceded him in death.

On Jan. 25, 1949, in Millersville, W.Va., he married Wilma Jean Straight. She survives in Garrett.

Also surviving are a son, Donald Wade Gibson of Garrett; four daughters and sons-in-law, Barbara and Val Miller of Sandy Lake, Pa., Rita and Ron Betz of Auburn; Kathy Van Allen and Jack Lane of Kendallville, and Bonnie and Kenny Woods of Huntington; a brother and sister-in-law, Paul and Betty Gibson of Pataskala, Ohio; seven grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by nine brothers and sisters.

Services will be Thursday at 10 a.m. in Thomas Funeral Home, 1277 C.R. 56, Garrett, with the Rev. Richard A. Pickard of Corunna Community Church officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery of Auburn, with graveside military services by the Garrett American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Calling will be Wednesday from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. in the funeral home.

Memorials are to the family, or to Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home, 5910 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46814.

To send a condolence or sign an online guestbook, visit www.thomasfuneralhome.org.

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